NIAGARA NEWS

JANUARY 19, 2001 | FREE | VOLUME 31 ISSUE 7

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism — Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

Students marvel at sex hypnotist show

By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

Oh no, his pants are coming off. Is she faking it? What is he doing to his friend?

These are just three of many expressions clearly seen on the faces of the college pub crowd Tuesday night as, awestruck, they watched friends and classmates make fools of themselves under Tony Lee's power of suggestion.

Lee, from Calgary, masterfully orchestrated a series of hypnotic suggestions on the After Hour's stage. Taking volunteers from the audience, he slowly brought them into a deep state of relaxation, and from there began the night's entertainment.

"We did some stuff . . . we haven't done in a long time," said Lee, adding, "some staple stuff we do all the time."

Lee said the constant changes in the act keep the audience guessing and coming back for more.

"I pick people that are very relaxed, people that I know that are in a deep relaxed state of mind."

He does between 300 and 320 shows per year. When asked what he thinks of the Niagara crowd Lee said plainly, "Niagara has beautiful women, everybody is really friendly, they're nice and they can drink!"

"They are intelligent drinkers though, well behaved but yet they've got a wild evil side to them as well, the best of both worlds."

Tony Lee, (left), makes volunteers from the crowd feel like they're on hallucinogenics

Photo by Ryan McLaughlin

The $6 admission price was well worth it, according to Triena Milsap, a second-year student in the Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program. She said it was "awesome" and "not what she expected," but admits she'd never go up and be hypnotized.

Matt Mandeno, a first-year Law and Security Administration program student, said, "It's funny. I think some people are fully hypnotized, but I think some people wake up halfway through."

Continued on page 18

Leaky roof sends visual arts students packing

By DAN D'AMICO
Staff Writer

Imagine sitting in your classroom and the person sitting next to you isn't a person at all but a bucket of water catching the major leak in the ceiling of your building.

This happened to the students of the Arts and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program at Niagara College's Black Walnut building at the Welland campus.

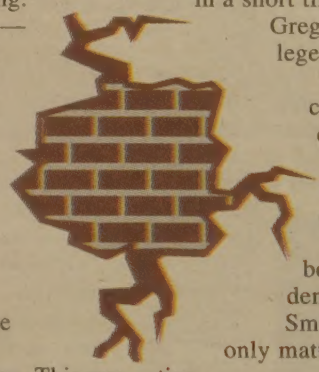
Steven Hudson, vice-president of corporate affairs, said to replace the roof would cost about $80,000. The college has already spent $20,000 to restructure the programs taught in the building and another $10,000 on an order of new computers for the Macintosh lab there.

He said the college had plans to address the building this summer but "tragedy" struck the low portion of the north side of the roof five months early. The students were working with the problem for about four weeks before the Christmas break.

"Timing is the problem. We weren't able to do anything until the Christmas break. They (the students) were very, very understanding."

Every time it rained the holes in the building got a bit bigger, said Hudson. This was before the snow season, which just made it worse, he added.

"Black Walnut is one of the buildings we are looking at not utilizing next year. We've got to find another permanent home for the Arts and Design students." He said in three to four weeks the college will have an answer.



Hudson said the staff worked hard with the students. "It's been a lot of work to do in a short time."

Greg Smith, co-ordinator of the program, said he was satisfied with the college's solution to the problem.

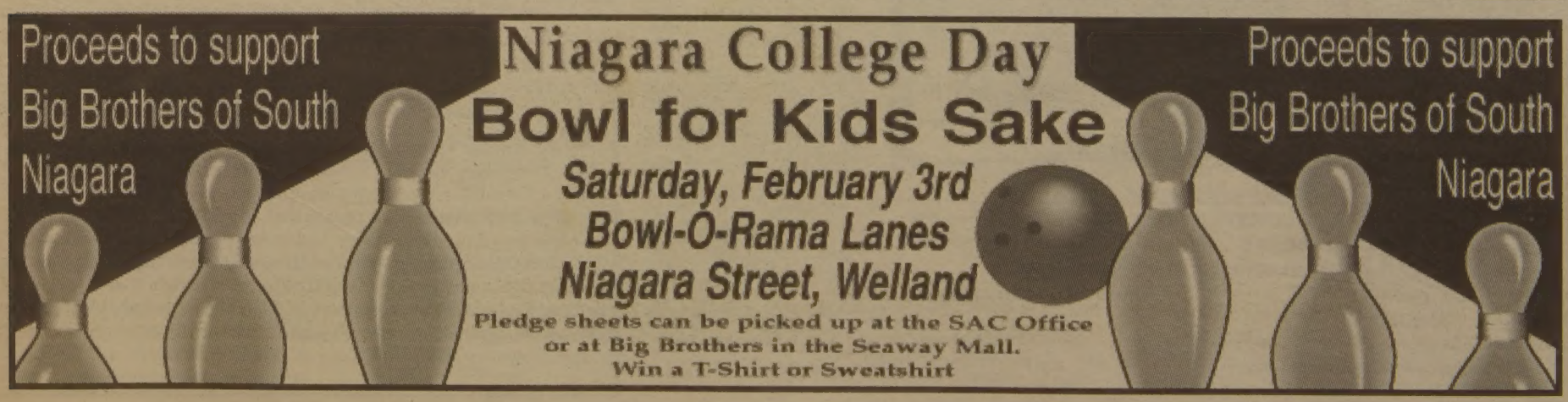
"I think things have been terrific." He said the staff expressed their concern about the situation to the faculty and the vice-president f academic.

"Steve Hudson and Bonnie Rose (vice-president academic) moved very quickly after the students met with them. The thing we took into consideration is the least disturbance to the students," Smith said.

The second-year students were the ones most affected, Smith added, because the leak slowed down the ability to do school work as those students needed equipment stored in the leaky rooms.

Smith said the construction work for the temporary solution is done. The only matter left to finish is placing the ordered computers in a temporary location.

"(Students are) going to have a chance to make up their work," he said, adding, "I anticipate everything will be straightened out by the time we get really going."



@NIAGARA

Online edition Niagara News coming soon

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer

The *Niagara News* is going online.

Later this term, readers of this paper can access the *Niagara News* through its new Web site, www.niagara-news.com. An official launch date has yet to be announced.

You will also be able to access the newspaper through the college's site, www.niagarac.on.ca.

"Our community of readers is the college, and the high majority of students are Internet oriented," says Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator of the two-year Journalism-Print program. The *Niagara News* is produced by the second-year students of the program.

The Net version is another way for students to make their work available to the public.

Pictures and text will be available on the alternate version and will be updated weekly at first, with plans to do a daily update.

"This reflects what is occurring in the industry," says Barnatt. "Most newspapers do it."

Initial plans for the online edition of the *Niagara News* began in April 2000. Sam Bayly, 26, a student in the Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate) program, was one of the people who first dealt with the project. He is also a graduate of the Journalism-Print program.

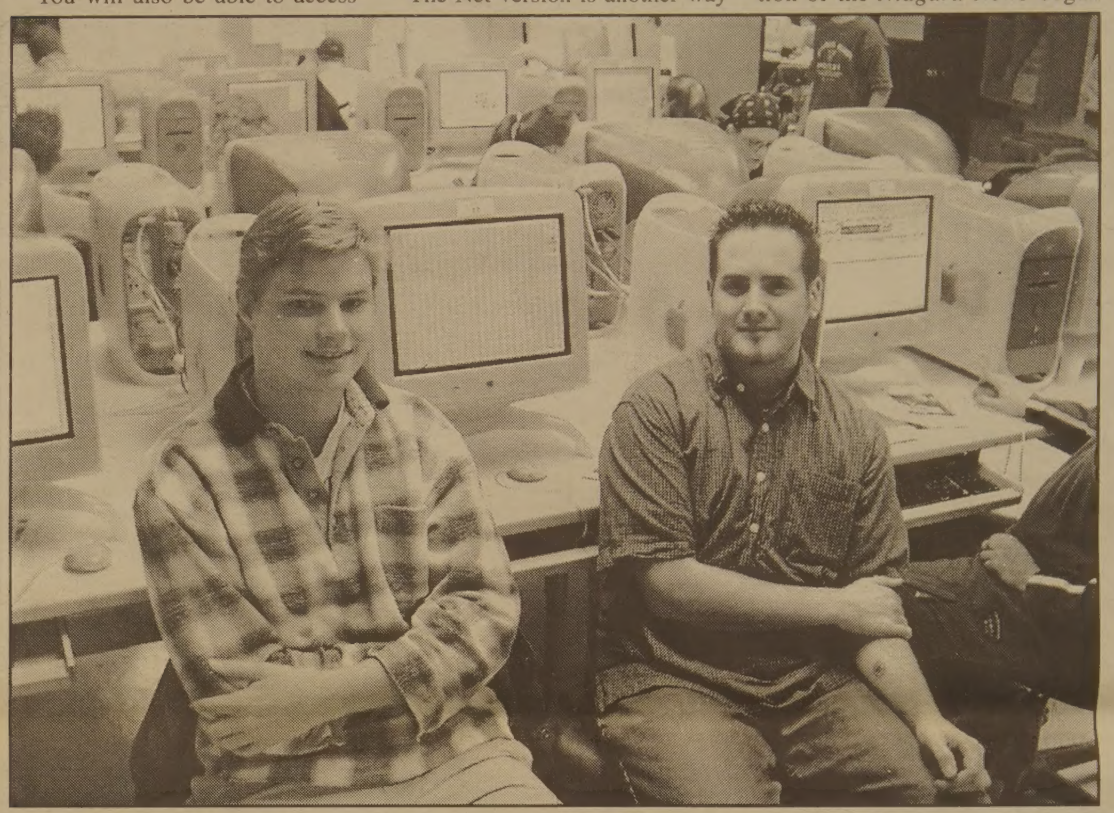
Bayly says the online edition is "for the students."

An archive of past editions of the newspaper will be included.

To the Journalism-Print program students, the online edition could potentially mean more jobs.

"The students have to present prospective employees their work without mailing it," says Bayly, adding students can refer other editors to the Web site to get a look at the work they've produced in the program.

The print edition will be published nine more times through April. The publishing dates are Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 16, March 9, March 16, March 23, April 6 and April 20.



Sam Bayly (left) sits with co-worker Ryan McLaughlin, a second-year Journalism-Print program student. The two are working to put the *Niagara News* online.

Photo by Scott Thomson

'Godfather' of documentaries visited screenwriting students

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer

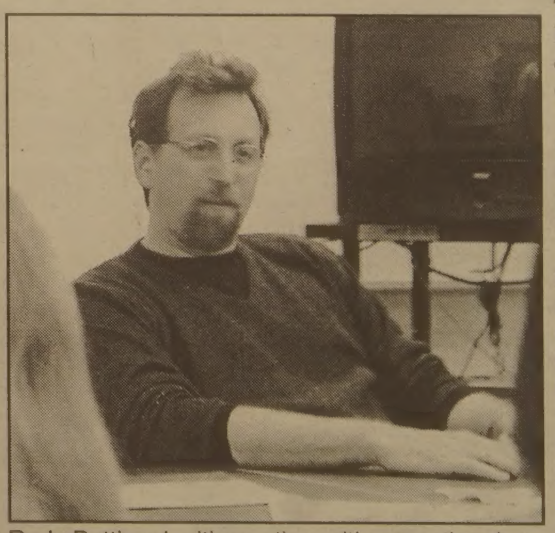
In December, students in the Writing Creative Documentaries course met Rudy Buttignol, creative head of documentaries and dramas for TVOntario.

Buttignol came to critique proposals for films written by students in the Professional Screenwriting (Post-graduate) program course.

He spent 18 years producing and directing his own independent films and helping others with theirs.

David Sobelman, who teaches the course, asked Buttignol to address the class. Sobelman says, "It's amazing that 10 out of 15 students delivered a professional package."

Sobelman, a Gemini and Michener Award-winning filmmaker, was asked to teach the course by Andrew Stevenson, who was then co-ordinator of the program.



Rudy Buttignol critiques the writing creative documentaries class from the Professional Screenwriting (Post-graduate) program.

Photo by Clinton Haggart

Buttignol says, "I love my job. I get to work with creative people." Because TVOntario is available everywhere in the province, Buttignol says he gets to speak to everyone indirectly.

He picks the people and programs that appear on The View From Here, Human Edge, one-hour science, technology, nature and environmental specials.

TVOntario also considers documentary series in the areas of history, culture, natural history, medicine, science and technology.

The Writing Creative Documentaries course was designed by Sobelman and this is the first time it has been taught at Niagara College. It is for people who are "passionately committed" to making documentaries.

Buttignol was approached by Sobelman when he was planning the course, and a date was picked in advance for the visit. Sobelman says, "Rudy is the godfather of creative documentaries. He has defined, politically, the definition of creative documentaries."

NRP brings home awards for videos

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

When people say, "You don't learn anything watching TV," they're usually right, but not if you're a police officer and watching training videos.

For nearly 20 years, the Niagara Regional Police Service Video Unit (NRPSVU) has been making instructional videos to train officers for handling situations they may face on duty.

"It covers the whole gambit. We have a good idea of what can be done on video," says Jon Ohlman, producer for the NRPSVU. "It's got to be something that's trainable on video."

The members of the NRPSVU once again showed the world their skill at the 11th annual International Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Video Association Training Conference in Los Angeles Nov. 9 to 12, 2000.

They received 13 awards, including the Award of Distinction for best overall production for their Domestic Violence video.

"In recent memory, this was our best (year)," says Ohlman. "We had no idea we'd do so well. There was some good competition. The other Canadians did well, too. Canada was the big winner this year. Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary (and) Edmonton all did well."

The other 12 awards the unit received included all six Craft Awards, given for excellence in the usage of particular production techniques like editing, sound, direction and camera work.

"It was great," he says. "I was really honoured. We tried a new technique with cameras . . . We went for a dramatic approach."

The tapes the video unit produces are used to train officers in situations such as interviewing, search methods, pursuits, drug arrests and other procedures and legal matters. Officers act in the videos and casting calls are held often to get new actors who aren't officers into the films.

Ohlman says the most difficult part of making a training video is the time that production takes, including setting up. The NRPSVU is given topics to cover on video about six months in advance and commonly has two or three productions being done at once. Also, some themes need to be updated frequently. "You can always be updating. Sometimes more needs to be added to get the message across, and sometimes the video just looks old and outdated," he says.

The NRPSVU productions are done at the Niagara Regional Police Service headquarters in St. Catharines, and Ohlman says the new Niagara Regional Police Service - Niagara College - Centre for Policing and Community Safety Studies at the Welland campus will allow the video unit to expand their room to work in.

"The technology changes, so we'll have some more space to work with in there," he says. "We're going to be happy to get in."

Correction

In the Volume 31 Issue 6 of the *Niagara News* published Dec. 8, 2000, in the story on page 2, headlined "Horticulture students have plenty of work," several items were not clearly stated. Tom Ball's actual position should have been stated as professor, technician and co-ordinator of the Horticulture Technician (Co-op) and Greenhouse Technician (Co-op) programs. Carl Palleck and Son Nursery in Virgil had donated in fact live plant material to the program. It should have been simply stated that horticulture and landscape students plant new trees at the Glendale campus and add dirt and fertilizer when needed.

It is the policy of Niagara News to correct errors of fact.

A Farewell Salute

Professor bids farewell after 30 years

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

After nearly three decades, having left a "great legacy" behind, Tom Ball has bid farewell to Niagara College and to the School of Horticulture and Agribusiness.

Though his retirement was officially slated for the end of 2000, Ball's duties ended as students headed for their holidays last term, confirmed Jon Ogryzlo, director of the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness Division at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Besides being a longstanding horticulture professor and technician, the Wainfleet native was co-ordinator of the Horticulture Technician (Co-op) and Greenhouse Technician (Co-op) programs.

Ogryzlo said with fondness in his voice, "Tom's obviously been an outstanding employee and professor . . . And mention horticulture at Niagara College, you mention Tom Ball because Tom's been with us in horticulture 29 years now, including the fact that he was trained here as a horticulture technician before he started (working) with the college."

Ball graduated from the horticulture program in 1970 from the old Wellandvale campus on Niagara Street in St. Catharines (the predecessor to the Glendale campus, which opened in September 1998) and began working at the college in 1971 as an instructor and technician. He has since taken more courses in such areas as greenhouse production, grounds maintenance and practical horticulture to "improve and build on skills," Ogryzlo noted.

"I think Tom's legacy at the college is twofold," Ogryzlo said, referring to the graduates he has taught and his input with the greenhouse at the campus and even the older campus. "He knows graduates that have jobs, and many of them are successful entrepreneurs across the country. When we go to trade shows or we show up at Toronto at a Landscape Ontario show or Flowers in Canada, Tom knows a lot of people there. And they're former students. They're running their own business and Tom's talking to them and (they go) 'Oh hi, Tom,' and who this person is, it turns out they're former graduates of Niagara College.

"Tom's been involved with actually the third generation of graduates. So we've trained dads, kids and now their grandkids, so there's three generations of grads that have come through the college in the horticultural field. So that's a great legacy."

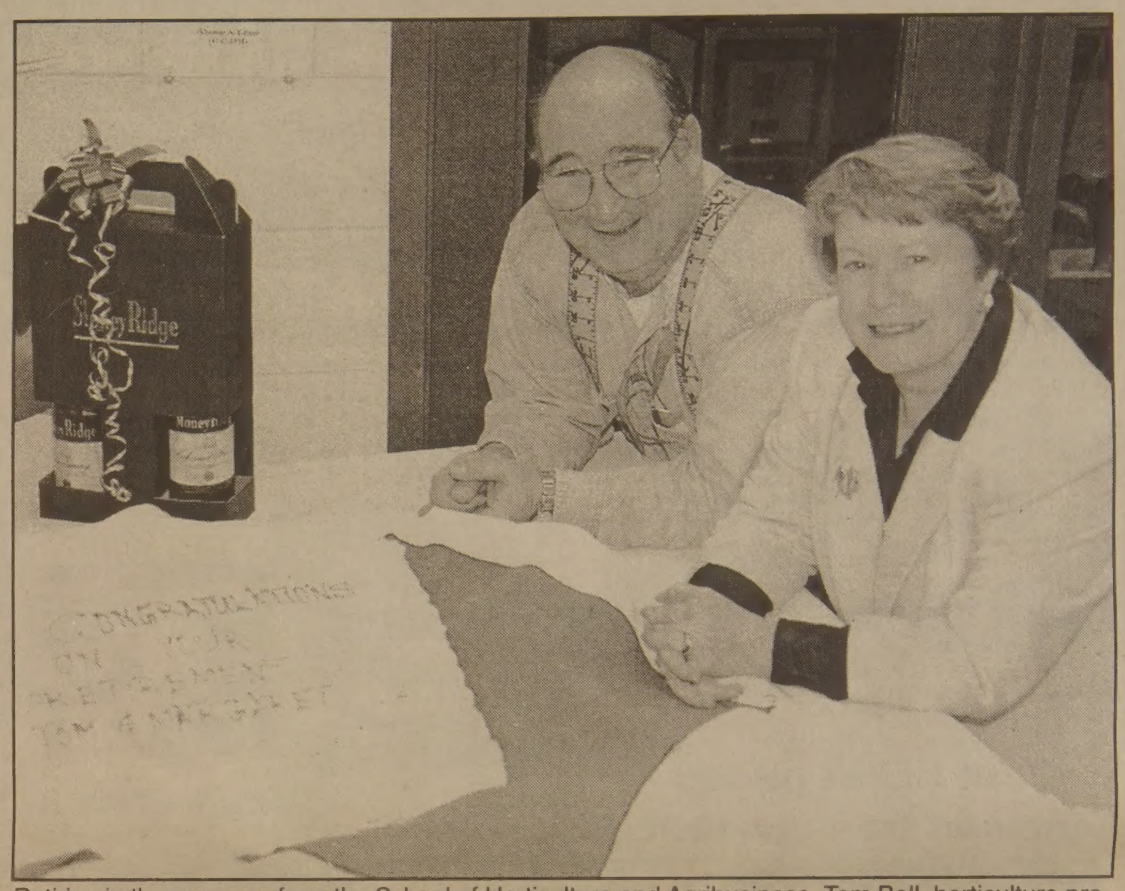
As well, his contribution to the old and the new campuses exemplifies Tom's work, Ogryzlo continued. "There's big legacy of trees, gardens, and a park" for instance, in which Ball has had a hand, that you can still see if you go by the old campus on Niagara Street in St. Catharines.

"Tom played a very key role in designing our greenhouse here in our facilities for the horticulture programs. And if you go over and walk through that greenhouse, its setup and its design. Tom played a very lead role in helping us organize all that — the bays, the size, what we're doing in the greenhouse, the specialties that we're working on."

Peter Thompstone, a fellow horticulture instructor and friend of Ball, who has known him through the college since 1975, shared much of the director's sentiments of Ball's contribution to the college and the horticulture programs in a telephone interview.

Horticulture professors gather with their departing colleagues at a party at the Glendale campus greenhouse. Pictured are (from left) Jim Thomson, retiree Margaret Robertson, secretary to the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness Division, retiree Tom Ball, horticulture professor, technician and co-ordinator of the Horticulture Technician (Co-op) and Greenhouse Technician (Co-op) programs, Don Pappel, Peter Thompstone and Olga Piedrahita.

Photo by Paul Finelli



Retiring in the new year from the School of Horticulture and Agribusiness, Tom Ball, horticulture professor, technician and co-ordinator of the Horticulture Technician (Co-op) and Greenhouse Technician (Co-op) programs, and Margaret Robertson, secretary to the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness Division, prepare to cut the congratulatory cake. A party honouring them was held *on Dec. 20 at the greenhouse at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.*

Photo by Paul Finelli

He said Ball "put a lot of energy" into his work and was "always trying to help" not only students but colleagues as well. "He loved horticulture generally, but his first love was the greenhouse and growing plants."

Saying he considered Ball to be "down-to-earth" and "sort of like a brother," Thompstone expressed his feelings about Ball's leaving as "mixed emotions."

"I'm happy for him. I think he has certainly earned his retirement . . . he will be missed."

Ball could not be reached for comment on his retirement, but Margaret Robertson spoke about her retirement.

Coincidentally, Robertson, a Chippawa native, retired at the same time as Ball, leaving her post as a secretary to the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness Division after working at the college for 14 years. Robertson's start was at the old Wellandvale campus, where she began as the Ontario Basic Skills secretary before becoming the director of access's secretary in 1991 She joined the division, which she leaves behind, in 1997.

Ogryzlo said, "I think one of the great contributions that Margaret made to our division was to help us with the transition from the Niagara Street campus, the former horticultural centre . . . to this large complex here at Glendale. Margaret played a key role in organizing, not only our move (in 1998) but the operation, the organization, the operation in the different sense of bringing the environmental programs together, the horticulture programs together and the start of a whole bunch of new programs like winery/viticulture, greenhouse, landscape, that sort of thing.

> ***'Tom played a very key role in designing our greenhouse here in our facilities for the horticulture programs.'***
> ***— Jon Ogryzlo***

"So Margaret has always been very personable and she's been very empathetic with people, empathizing with people, and I think that she's going to be really missed. I really appreciate the way Margaret has had a really excellent handle on tracking budgets and ensuring we were able to maximize our use of resources for the college. She was a terrific, organized person and helped us set us everything up here."

"I'm very happy about retiring. It's the right thing," Robertson said, adding with a bigger grin, "I'm going to expand my horizon but stop to smell the roses along the way."

In a later telephone interview, Robertson added, "What I'm going to miss at Niagara is the interaction with the students . . . I have enjoyed working with them very much."

She recalled a retirement party in honour of Ball and her, held at the greenhouse centre the afternoon of Dec. 20 that 20 to 30 faculty members and other well-wishers from the Glendale campus attended. "It was a very special time. It was very meaningful for both of us."

She added the horticulture and landscape students had earlier held "a special party" for both of them at the campus pub, Alexander Davidson's. "It too was very meaningful and special for both of us."

She noted her colleagues had another reception for her and Ball. "Our division also held a retirement function at the Maid of the Mist Centre (in Niagara Falls) on Dec. 7 and that was grand . . . it was very wonderful." She said, "I will miss most of all my colleagues as well."

Robertson's vacated post is not filled but the job has been posted, and interviewing is expected to begin within two weeks, Ogryzlo explained. Replacing Ball is Mike Haekstra.

(Haekstra will be profiled in a future edition of Niagara News.)

THE SAC VOICE

Student Council Welland - Glendale - Maid of the Mist

The SAC VOICE is produced by all three student councils to keep you, the student body, informed of upcoming events and activities presented by SAC. The SAC VOICE is also a forum to be used by students for students. It is our hope that you will see these ads and choose to PARTICIPATE in upcoming activities. For more information visit our Web site.

"sac wants you"

www.niagarac.on.ca/~sac

Ski Bash 2001
@ Snow Valley Ski Resort
Jan. 26
tickets $15 lift ticket and bus ride

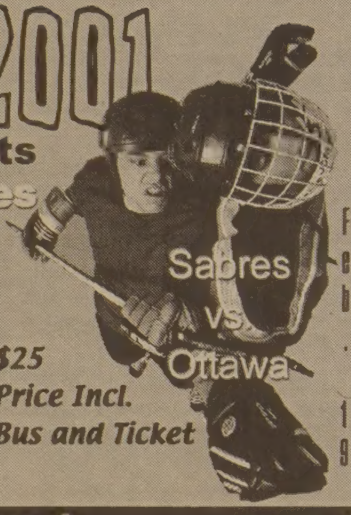
SACTIVITIES 2001

Tri-Campus Events

Barenaked Ladies Concert

Feb. 20
tickets $25 ticket and bus ride

Raptors vs. Pacers
March 30
tickets $30 ticket and bus ride



$25 Price Incl. Bus and Ticket
Feb. 19

Tickets for all events in the SAC. OFFICE

All ticket prices include transportation

Watch for

Glendale Campus
Pool and Ping Pong
Tournament Jan. 29th - Feb. 2nd
prizes for winners, advance to tri-campus finals
BIG TV EVENT!!!!
New 52' TV and DVD player will be in pub starting FEB 1

Welland
Stop by the SAC office
and check out all the great
events that we are offering or
visit our web site
www.niagarac.on.ca/~sac

Maid of the Mist
Adopt -A-Minefield
Skate -A-Thon
Wed. Jan. 24th 1:30-3:30
Niagara Falls Memorial Arena
Pledge sheets in SAC office

SIGN UP YOUR TEAM FOR WINTERFEST NOW, great prizes, fun events, at all campuses....

CAMPUS PUB STUFF

Now showing: SAC invites you to a free movie night every Tuesday at After Hours Pub Welland Campus. We will be showing first run feature films, absolutely FREE! This event is licensed and open to all ages. Bring your own popcorn and we will pop it for yah...

Tuesday Jan. 23rd
URBAN LEGENDS II "Final Cut"

Tuesday Jan. 30th
BEDAZZLED

Tuesday Feb. 6th
CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Doors 8:00 Movie 8:30

Every Tuesday Night
Welland Campus

ON TOUR Mark Breslin's YUK YUKS WWW.YUKYUKS.COM

STAND UP COMEDY LIVE

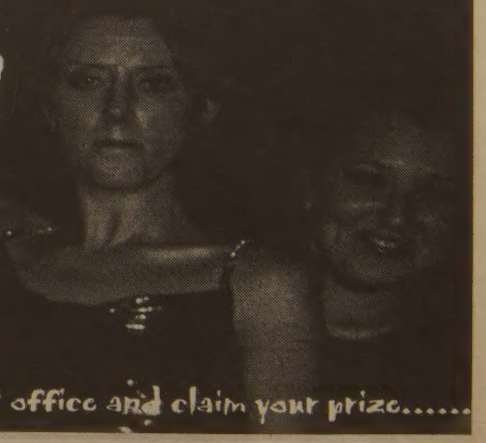
Wed. Jan. 24th
XXX RATED SHOW
KENNY ROBINSON AND RON JOSOL

Wed. Jan. 31st
JIMMY MAC AND MIKE CLIFF

Every Wednesday Night
Welland Campus

PUB NIGHTS "The tradition continues"

Were you at pub night?



Glendale
Every Wednesday
Welland
Every Thursday

If this is you, stop by the SAC office and claim your prize.....

SAC

Catch some free flicks on big screen in pub

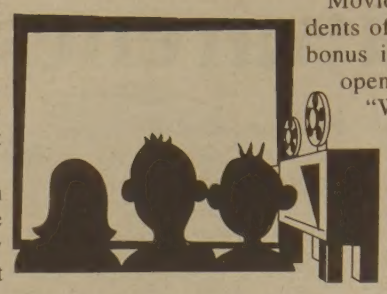
By HEATHER RUTA
Staff Writer

Are high movie theatre prices preventing you from seeing new releases? Well, now students can see those movies at After Hours at Niagara College's Welland campus.

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) has put together a movie night starting on Tuesday, Jan. 23. It will run every Tuesday night for the rest of the academic year.

SAC will be showing movies that have just left the theatre and are either not out, or just out, on video. The movies will be played on the big screen at the pub.

SAC got the idea from another college and if the event is a success they hope to continue it next year.



Movie night is free for students of Niagara College. The bonus is that the bar will be open to serve drinks.

"What kind of movie theatre lets you drink while watching a movie?" asks Welland campus SAC president Ryan McLaughlin.

Doors open to students at 8 p.m. and the movie should start around 9 p.m.

Students are welcome to bring their own popcorn or other snacks.

The movies will be picked according to popular demand. This month Urban Legends II Final Cut will be shown and in February Charlie's Angles will be.

For more information about movie night watch for posters around the school and flyers in the student residence and in the *Niagara News*. If all else fails, check at the SAC office.

Ontario government pleased with fewer defaults

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

The Ontario government is "pleased" to be a step closer to meeting its goal of reducing the Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP) default rates.

On Jan. 4, Dianne Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities, announced the percentage of students who defaulted on their OSAP loans is the lowest it has been since 1997. That was the first year the government began publicly releasing rates.

This year's default rate is 15.7 per cent, down from 18.2 per cent in 1999. This is the third consecutive annual drop in the province since 1997, when the rate was 23.5 per cent.

An Ontario student loan is in default when the Ontario government has paid a bank's claim for an inactive loan. A loan is inactive when a student makes no payment for at least 90 days.

The decline in rates has put the government closer to its goal of trying to reduce the default rate to 10 per cent by 2003. The goal was set in 1998.

"I am pleased to see that rates are falling and more students are paying back their loans, but we still have a way to go to meet our overall commitment to reduce OSAP default rates," Cunningham said in a press release.

The government has taken a number of measures to help reduce the frequency and cost of loan defaults. One way to help is by providing Ontario Student Opportunity Grants. Students who borrow more than $7,000 for the year (a year is considered two academic terms) receive a grant for the amount above $7,000, provided they complete their academic year. The government will be screening new loan applicants to be sure loans are not being given to students who have a history of credit abuse.

They will focus not only on students. The government will be requiring institutions with high default rates to help pay for the cost of their outstanding debts. Institutions are also required to give applicants accurate information about default rates, employment rates and graduation rates by program, to make the applicants more informed about the programs they are going into.

The default rate has declined for universities, colleges and private schools. The rate for university students is 7.1 per cent, down from 8.4 per cent. They are already under the 10 per cent goal.

The rate for college students is 17.2 per cent, down from 20.1 per cent, and the rate for students at private vocational schools is 28.9 per cent, down from 31 per cent.

The 2000 default rates reflect the repayment status of students who were issued Ontario student loans in the 1997/98 academic year and completed or exited their studies in 1998/99. The Ontario government calculates defalt rates by expressing the number of loans defaulted as a percentage of the number of loans issued.

Working together as a team can be fun at same time

By HEATHER RUTA
Staff Writer

For Niagara College students wanting to be more involved in school events, here's your chance. But you have to do it today.

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) is holding its annual Winterfest next week.

The week full of events is designed to encourage students to work in teams and have fun doing it.

Winterfest starts Monday and will continue until Friday, Jan. 26. Sign up your five-member team in the Welland campus SAC office at the After Hours building. The deadline is Jan. 19.

On Monday at 12:30 p.m., there will a scavenger hunt, a pudding adventure, a pop chugging contest (8L/team) and also suck and blow.

On Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., there is winter wonderland and a spaghetti-eating contest.

There will be snow volleyball and a Trivial Pursuit contest on Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

On Thursday at 12:30 p.m., there will be air band contests and that's also the deadline to hand in the scavenger hunt results.

An awards presentation is slated for Friday at 10:30 a.m.

All students are invited to attend, participate and/or watch these events.

SAC WINTERFEST
Schedule of Events (Jan. 22 - Jan. 26)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
@ After Hours Pub 12:30 PM	@ After Hours Pub 12:30 PM	@ After Hours Pub 11:30 AM	@ After Hours Pub 12:30 PM	@ After Hours Pub 10:30 AM
• Scavenger Hunt Begins • Pudding Adventure • Pop Chugging Contest • Suck and Blow	• Winter Wonderland • Spaghetti Eating Contest	• Snow Volleyball • Winterfest Trivial Pursuit	• Air Band Competition • Hand in Scavenger Hunt by 12:30	AWARDS PRESENTATION

AGRICULTURE NIAGARA

Centre at 'eco-campus' helping promote environmental awareness worldwide

(This is the first part of a series on environmental programs at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on the-Lake.)

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

Since 1991, Niagara College has increased environmental awareness the world over.

The Centre for Environmental Training, which, along with the School of Horticulture and Agribusiness, comprises the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness Division, turns 10 years old in July.

Jon Ogryzlo, divisional director, said the college began the centre recognizing "the need for trained people in action" on the environment and it "wanted a role in training people for the future of the environment."

"So, they decided to see whether we could launch a number of programs in that area and from 1991 to having this campus, which is (in) part an 'eco-campus,' there's been a major commitment of the college to that area, to the whole training of environment."

The centre's goal is to be known internationally for excellent environmental education, training, research and development, and to provide the latest training, to promote technology in the environmental field, to work with the community and to boost economic development in environmentally conscious businesses and industries. The centre has an advisory board of directors from business, industry, associations, government and education.

"We started with some seminars. we did some special contracts, and we then moved into post-secondary and post-graduate programs. We've done a lot of international projects. We've done some contractual work with governments. We're now getting into applied research but our thrust is really focused on training students right now across Canada and in the regional schools in environment.

"We've piloted a lot of programs. We are the first people in Canada to do environment management as a post-graduate program, the first people to do ecological restoration as a post-graduate program . . . so we did a lot of initiatives that were first in Canada."

To date, the centre offers two-year post-secondary diplomas in Environmental Technician — Field and Laboratory (Co-op) and Environmental Technician — Water Resources (Co-op). As well, it features one-year certificates in Ecosystem Restoration (Post-graduate), Environmental Management (Post-graduate) and Geographic Information Systems (Post-graduate).

As for growing environmental interest, Ogryzlo remarked, "It's just whether it's reflected in the priorities of governments and communities . . . It became less a priority during the mid-'90s and late '90s and now it's starting to become a priority again.

"We have significant incidents that make it so, like Walkerton, so environment's now a priority — water quality is the environment. The federal government has made a reinstatement of principle in supporting the environment, hence put a lot of money forward into it."

Walkerton, Ont., experienced E. coli contamination of its well-derived drinking water last year. Seven people died and thousands became ill. A judicial hearing is being held to investigate how the situation developed and what can be done to prevent similar events elsewhere in Ontario.

Another sign of growing interest is that environmental employment is the fifth largest type of employment in Canada, Ogryzlo said, referring to a federal study.

The study is Human Resources in the Canadian Environmental Sectors: 2000 Final Report, by The Canadian Council for Human Resources in the Environment Industry, which is a non-profit Canadian organization formed in 1993 to assist the environment industry in developing and implementing human resources development policies.

"I think if you look at national studies . . . it indicates that Canada can be a leader in the environmental field. And that's what we're hoping to do — is to create leaders that are trained here at the college after they go to university." He estimated more than 100 students this year come from other post-secondary institutions. About 115 students are registered in the post-graduate programs and 50 to 60 are in the undergraduate programs.

While the centre is not expanding in the near future, the director said, "We're always innovating with different things. Our staff are always on the leading edge of being involved with the latest developments in the environment."

One example is the various workshops to be offered at the Glendale campus to attendees of a 13th annual international conference to be held in Niagara Falls in October 2001. The conference is run by the Society for Ecological Restoration, dedicated to promoting better understanding and application of habitat and ecosystem repair worldwide.

"I think the biggest change in the last year or two is that now we are a state-of-the-art campus. We have great science, chemistry labs. We have the lagoons. We have our monitoring wells on campus. We have weather stations. We have air quality equipment. So we have a lot of . . . technology and resources right on the property that we didn't have in the past. And I think that's exciting for the students and it's exciting for our faculty because now we've got the facilities, one of the best campuses for the environment, I think, in Canada. And we're making use of it.

"So we want to attract more students to come in, learn about how they can help in the environment or government. I think if students enjoy working in the field, working outside, working in the lab, working in public relations or promotions with the environment, that this is the (centre) they should come to."

Besides various extensive and year-round hands-on training on campus, students do some work off campus such as in parks belonging to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, with which the centre is partnered, he said. "(We) do a lot of projects with them . . . and work with them on ecological restoration projects."

'We've piloted a lot of programs. We are the first people in Canada to do environment management as a post-graduate program, the first people to do ecological restoration as a post-graduate program . . . so we did a lot of initiatives that were first in Canada.'

The centre has more recently collaborated with Brock University in St. Catharines and the University of Waterloo in Waterloo. Students can complete honours bachelor's degrees from either university and get a post-graduate environment certificate from the college, all in four to 4 1/2 years.

The centre, in recent years and now, offers expertise and guidance in other countries.

"We have a five-year project in Thailand with Brock University setting up a new centre there. We've got another year to go with our India project and helping them to set up their centre for environmental management. We've had students in Argentina, Ecuador, India (and Jordan.) So we get our students out there as well as ourselves."

Summing up the Centre for Environmental Training's role in these countries, Ogryzlo said, "We're involved internationally because environment is not something that is bound by borders."

(Next week: the common and differing paths of the environmental technician programs.)

Standing in the halls of the Lundy Wing of Niagara College's Welland campus are pictured (from left) Leo Tiberi, director of the Communications and Information Technology Division, technology instructor Ted Stark, and 15-year-old Cody Keating, of Welland, grand winner of a DVD player from a draw. The draw was a highlight for the Grade 10 student, of Centennial High School in Welland, who remarked, "Cool . . . Never thought I'd win it." Having an interest in technology, he added, "In a few years, I'll probably come here." The open house, called Technology@Niagara, was held in the Lundy Wing, on Dec. 4, 2000, in the afternoon. It featured 11 of the college's technology programs, including the new Photonics (Laser) Engineering Technician and Photonics (Laser) Engineering Technology, both of which are still in development.

Photo by Paul Finelli

PROFILE

Co-ordinator helps students reach their goals

By RACHEL MONTOUR
Staff Writer

He has worked at the Centre for Students with Disabilities for a decade.

Gilles Prescott, of Montreal, Que., is the co-ordinator of the Centre for Students with Disabilities at Niagara College's Welland campus.

An 11-year employee of the college, Prescott says he started by teaching psychology courses for one year before moving to the Centre for Students with Disabilities.

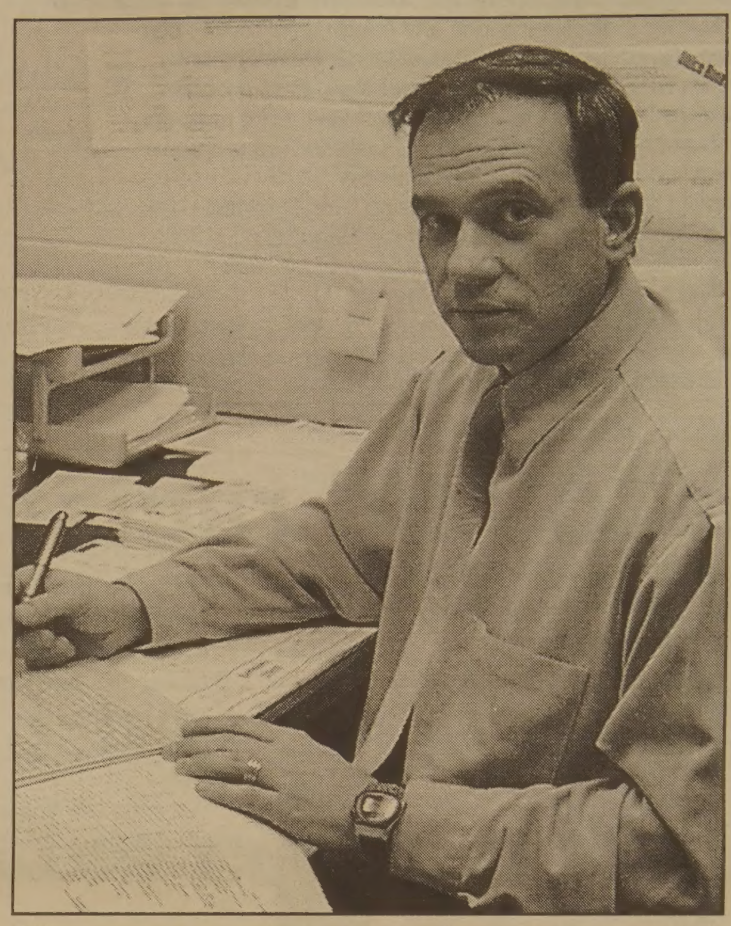
Among his duties, he says, he is required "to ensure the students are receiving proper accommodation, attending to students' needs, advocating for students, (and) meeting individually with students. We have to share the responsibility of our counsellors but also look at more general issues that impact on all three campuses (Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake)."

He produces reports for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. He says he makes sure the "budget doesn't go beyond what it was set at."

As for the best part of his job it's the "variety" of things he does in one day. "I love working with the students (and) the challenges of different things I have to do in one day and in one week. Not one day is the same as the other so it makes it a lot of fun."

"One day I can be helping with a mechanical problem on a wheelchair, then installing computer software, then meeting with a new student assessing learning disabilities. Then I might be called to a meeting to help resolve difficulties with a student.

"I guess technology and computers is one of our big challenges, because a lot of our students use computers and technology; making sure it all works is important."



Gilles Prescott, co-ordinator for the Centre for Students with Disabilities, has reached the 10-year mark of his career.

Photo by Scott Rosts

"The students we work with are students with a variety of disabilities. The disabilities range from learning disabilities, which is our greatest percentage of students we service, to students with medical problems, mobility problems, visual and auditory impairments, and students with social or emotional problems."

"In general the students are really hard-working. They want to succeed . . . Students with disabilities are usually facing more hurdles and problems. They work extra hard at what they are doing, and they deserve even more credit because of that."

He says he admires them for that. "It's not easy to come back to a post-secondary institution if you have a learning disability and you know your spelling is poor and you know you have a hard time writing an essay . . . or someone who has a mobility problem and they know they are going to have to travel across the campus, they may have difficulty getting to class.

"Students deserve a lot of credit. I admire all of them for what they are doing."

He says at the beginning of the term they look at the student's schedule. "If we know that a student will be required to travel a fair distance across the campus then we reschedule their classes to try to avoid that as much as possible."

He says they try their best to accommodate students.

He says he studied at McGill University in Montreal.

"I have a bachelor's degree in personality and abnormal psychology and a master's degree in educational psychology."

"It was very hard the first year because my mother tongue was French. I knew enough English to get by, but all my courses were in English. The first term was very difficult." He says he had to get used to university life as well as a new language.

"Eventually my language skills improved and things became easier."

"I have been given some recognition for work I did on the College Committee on Disability Issues (CCDI)," he says.

The CCDI is a provincial committee of 25 members representing Ontario's 25 colleges. These people work in the colleges' special needs offices. They gather to address disability issues that are found provincewide and will affect students.

To fill his hours outside the office, Prescott says, "I like woodworking. I like gardening and I enjoy walking. Woodworking is not as intellectual as doing psychology. It is a different set of brain skills you have to use. It's creative. It's a different mindset altogether than working with people. You're working with an inanimate object."

He has reproduced an old antique dresser. "That is probably the one thing I like the most."

A world traveller, he has his favourites there too. "I like the blue of the ocean," noting that's also his favourite colour.

"I did some scuba diving in the Caribbean . . . That was a lot of fun. The ocean has a lot to offer and discover. It's absolutely beautiful down there to see all the fish and plant life."

Having been to the Caribbean and Europe, he says, "Europe has a lot to offer in terms of history and getting to know different cultures, languages and different ways of life . . . so that's really interesting to look at those differences."

Prescott, married for one year, says married life is "a lot of fun."

He has an 18-year-old son whom he takes on trips to the United States and Montreal.

Broadcasting — Radio, Televison and Film program students Erin Pitkin, 20, Jody Pratt, 20, Brent Stephenson, 29, and Nicolas Ibarra, 20, set up to videotape the Leave the Pack Behind display outside the Job Centre at the Welland campus of Niagara College.

Photo by Clinton Haggart

Get Your Tickets!
See the Canadiens while they are still Canadian!
Sunday, Feb. 11th
Buffalo
vs.
Montreal @ 7:30
Tickets are $40
with $4.60 donated to the St. Catharines and area United Way.
A local fund-raiser organized by CIBC on Front Street.
Call Steven Warden at CIBC at 905-227-2863 for more information.

Don't Be *Pushed* into Abortion
TAKE CONTROL . . .
CHOOSE LIFE
Your complete resource centre on Pro-Life
• Books • Audio Tapes & Presentation Kits avail.
• Videos • Brochures
St. Catharines RIGHT TO LIFE Inc.
110 Geneva St., St. Catharines 684-7505

The Niagara News is weekly!
Next edition January 26th

Canada's New & Evolutionary Night Spot
maximum
N-ERGY
club, bar and dance
COME FEEL THE ENERGY
243 Garrison Rd. • Fort Erie • Canada

EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, Room S212, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2
Phone (905) 735-2211 / 641-2252 / 374-7454 / FAX (905) 736-6003
Editor: Scott Thomson; **Associate Editor:** Patricia Hughes; **Assistant Editor:** Bill Stephenson;
Publisher: Leo Tiberi, director, Communications and Information Technology;
Editor-in-chief: Stu Black, project manager, New Media Development;
Managing Editor: Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator, Journalism-Print program;
Associate Managing Editor: Gary Erb, professor, Journalism-Print program;
Editorial Consultant: Nancy Geddie, professor, Journalism-Print program;
Advertising Professor: Linda Camus;
Advertising-Account Manager: VBS Advertising, Ron Crowley;
Advertising Design: Ron Crowley; Clinton Haggart;
Photography Consultant: Jhim Burwell, photography instructor;
Photography Editor: Clinton Haggart;
Film Processing: Hilary Taylor; Brooke Dredge; Tara Ford; Joël D. Herrington;
Contact Sheets: Ryan McLaughlin; Bill Stephenson; Heidi Morrison; Aaron Wilson;
Scanning Crew: Paul Finelli; Crystal Langille; Patricia Hughes; Scott Rosts.

The start of war to end racist beliefs

"This is our hope."

These are four simple words said by such a humble man.

Monday, Jan. 15, marked the 72nd anniversary of the birth of possibly the most influential man in recent history, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

King's non-violent approach to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s changed the face of the world in ways we may never truly understand.

King preached of racial harmony and economic equality.

King preached of freedom and in turn gave all people, all races, the opportunity to believe in something real.

Truth, equality and hope exist in our hearts.

They are imbedded into all of us from birth. We've just got to know how to find them.

While King's message was received, we're still not free.

It's been some 30 years since King last stood on a podium and preached and we still are not considered equal.

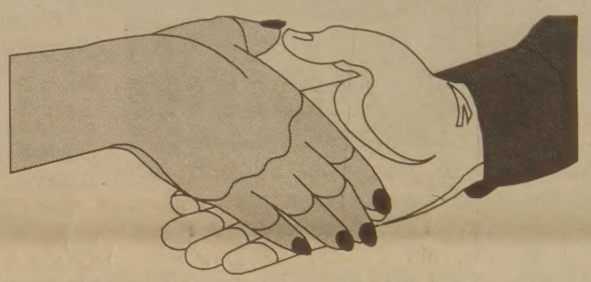
From the Rodney King beating to the bloodshed in Tibet, we are not free. It is our hope that carries us on.

We need to remove these shackles with our hearts and minds.

These chains need to be broken before any one of us can really achieve happiness.

Look at me: I don't want to be labelled as white or black. I'm human.

By looking at my skin colour, people make assumptions about me. What that assumption is remains a mystery to me, but we all know the stereotypes a black teenage male receives, don't we?



I don't see myself as a white man.

I hate white skin much as I hate black skin or any other coloured skin because the connotation my skin tone enrages me.

I am human and so are you.

This message is so simple yet rarely understood.

This is the message Dr. King spoke about.

He gave his life for it and so will I.

If we see racial injustice of any sort, we should fight. Whether the problem is severe or not, a bigot will always be the enemy.

Instead of our fists, we must learn to fight with our minds.

We must not brainwash our youth with any stereotypes. Let them learn for themselves.

My only hope is that they will see the problem and fix it.

All I can really do, though, is shut my mouth and start to scream.

People don't want to hear my pleas, for if they did the problem would have been fixed a long time ago.

For the five or six of you who are actually listening to me, fight alongside me.

Let's start a war.

Let's truly begin the battle that will unite us all as human beings.

It won't be easy, but I promise it can be done.

We will win.

Scott Thomson

January a bad month for resolutions

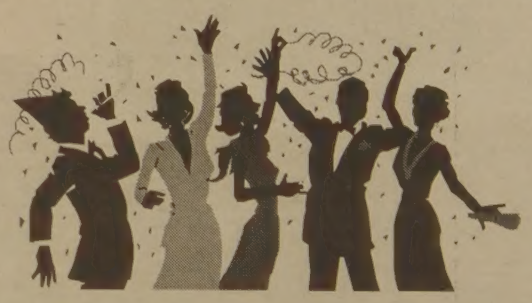
The new millennium has just begun and I haven't made a New Year's resolution. Am I doomed?

Most people I know have the same resolution each year: to quit smoking. However, before the end of the month they have once again set fire to the tobacco that puts the sparkle in their eyes.

I used to make a resolution every year, and to be perfectly honest I don't remember a single one. I don't smoke so I know it wasn't that. It couldn't have been important enough that it would drastically change my life, so what's the point?

I often wonder who the first person was to think of the idea of a New Year's resolution and what the purpose of it is. Perhaps it was meant to break bad habits or maybe to improve one's life, or both.

Even though I can't remember any of the resolutions I've made over the years, I'm pretty sure I won't be punished by not following up on them. I've never heard of a superstition that went along with not going through with your New Year's resolution. Perhaps there should be one. Since many people seem to be superstitious, maybe more would keep their resolutions.



My definition of a New Year's resolution is a promise you make to yourself. Perhaps some people break their resolutions because they feel it's not necessary to keep a promise to themselves.

What it all comes down to is self-control — whether you can easily make a choice between a salad or take-out from Pizza Hut; or when you're sitting in a crowded room full of smokers and remember the good times you used to have inhaling more than just second-hand smoke. What's one more year, right?

Maybe winter just isn't the season for resolutions. On the Natural Health Web site, Carolyn Cohen, an acupuncturist, says January is a bad time for resolutions because it is a dark, wet, cold, slow-moving month, as is the season. It is a time to conserve energy and by the time you realize you've broken your resolution you figure it's too late. Better luck next time, right?

If there's something you want to change in your life, why do you have to do it at the beginning of the year? Why not start your resolution when it's a good time for you?

I now know what my New Year's resolution is going to be: to think of a good one by spring.

Patricia Hughes

ADVERTISING RULES: The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. This applies whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise.
There shall be no liability for non-insertions of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.
All advertisers are asked to check their advertisements after first insertion. We accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion unless notified immediately after publication. Errors, which do not lessen the value of the advertisement, are not eligible for corrections by a make-good advertisement. There shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, revise, classify or reject any advertisement.

VIEWPOINTS

Struggle to survive is 'vicious circle'

By CRYSTAL LANGILLE
Staff Writer
Column

I understand why people rob banks.

It stems from utter desperation and hopelessness.

It may all begin when you receive a letter from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities stating that you owe $492 because they didn't do their job properly and screwed up on your 1999 Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) application by over-awarding your funds.

Then you find out just weeks before you start the second semester of your graduating year that you are not eligible for further assistance until you pay them.

Did I mention that this letter came two weeks before Christmas? So now, buying your family gifts is out of the question.

While you are scrounging around for things to sell at a pawnshop, the phone rings just as it has three times a day for weeks now.

It's the creditors calling.

You have maxed out both of your credit cards because you had to use them to buy books and school supplies, and now you don't have enough money to make the minimum payments.

All the while, your landlord is knocking at your door looking for the $615 that you owe in rent to be able to live in that "crack house" apartment building and you can't get out of the lease that you were obligated to sign to be able to move in.

Also, about six months ago, you weren't able to pay the full amount of your phone bill and as a result you fell behind, so it just kept growing and the telephone company keeps threatening to cut your line. You keep begging them to extend their deadline because you certainly can't afford the reconnection charge.

. . . your landlord is knocking at the door for the $615 that you owe in rent to be able to live in a 'crack house' apartment building. . .

It's driving you crazy to eat peanut butter on toast and chicken noodle soup day in and day out just to keep your energy going so that you can function at school, try to complete all your assignments and keep a smile on your face so that your friends won't think there's something wrong.

You think about asking your parents for help but you know that you're only one of five children, three of whom are in college or university. Plus, you haven't been able to give anyone gas money to take you to see them since school started and your five-year-old brother keeps calling you to ask when you're coming home to sleep over.

Going to the bank is out of the question because now that you are 22, your credit is destroyed and another loan would just mean more money owing.

No matter how many résumés you've handed out or how excellent your work experience is, people just don't seem to be hiring.

Even the slightest hope you had of being approved for a bursary is crushed when you realize that hundreds of others are applying for the same thing.

It's so frustrating when you're the only one who seems to understand that you need the OSAP funding to be able to continue school, to get a job, to be able to pay the rent and bills and credit card companies and the $25,000 worth of OSAP loans you've already accumulated to go to school, to get a job . . .

It's a vicious circle.

I understand the desperation and hopelessness that drives some to rob a bank.

Why wouldn't they? Even if they get caught and go to jail, they can still take comfort in knowing that they'll get a free education while they're there.

Twenty-five cents going once, twice . . .

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer
Column

With the holidays just behind us, I stop and realize how quickly the spirit fades.

Only a day after New Year's and barely a week after Christmas, I was shocked by the greed of some people.

Searching for a vacant parking space at Clifton Hill in Niagara Falls, I spot one and immediately signal my blinker to claim my territory.

As I rummage through the ashtray for some spare change, all that surfaces are old gas receipts and a pile of pennies. Finally, I spot a silver coin and the search is over.

With my American quarter in hand I approach the parking meter, as does the man in the space ahead of me.

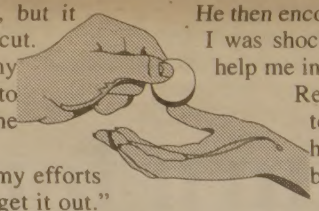
I drop my coin and clear the snow from the clock to read the time I have allotted to my visit, but it stared blankly as though its power had been cut.

The man beside me notified me that my coin had jammed in the slot. I reached into my pocket for a penny and tried to push the quarter down.

The man beside me quickly interrupted my efforts and said, "Oh no, let me help you get it out."

I questioned myself as to why this man thought I wasn't capable of removing my own quarter. Assuming this man was just trying to be a good Samaritan and help a young lady out, I stood aside and let him try.

The heavy set, middle-aged man reached into his pocket and pulled out a Swiss Army-style knife and attempted to retrieve the coin.



Within a minute his efforts proved successful; however, his manners had much to be desired.

With a suddenly arrogant tone in his voice, he boasts, "Wow, looks like I just made myself a quarter."

He then encouraged me to put another coin into the meter.

I was shocked. This strange man, who had offered to help me in the first place, had just stolen my quarter.

Realizing his absurd ignorance, I quickly took the offensive and reminded this man his new-found quarter happens to have been mine.

After I practically had to pull teeth to have the quarter returned to its rightful owner, I turned my back and walked away from this rude man.

For the rest of the day I was puzzled and disappointed to have witnessed the greed of our society.

I'll be the first one to admit that sometimes I may be a penny pincher known to cut corners off circles, but, for goodness sake, it was for a mere 25 cents.

Can nobody do anything for free any more?

Elevators are meant for disabled not lazy

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer
Column

I'd like to sleep more than 10 hours a day.

I'd like to lie on my futon and watch movies all day.

I'd buy fast food before I would make a meal. I'd only clean my apartment when I couldn't find something, and I'd do my dishes only when I needed something to eat off.

I'm lazy, but I'm not so lazy that I have to take the elevator instead of the stairs.

The elevator in the Simcoe building at the Welland campus of Niagara College is for students with disabilities, not for some fatty who gets winded in the stairwell.

"It's a courtesy. If someone is sitting there waiting for the elevator and 20 people who could use the stairs are using it at the same time, they should let the disabled person use it," says Rachel Montour, 21, of Ohsweken, Ont., a second-year student in the Journalism-Print program, who uses a wheelchair because of cerebral palsy.

I'm lazy, but I'm not so lazy that I take the elevator instead of the stairs.

James Davis, 22, who also has cerebral palsy, and Loretta Bruiere, 20, who has spina bifida, say they aren't bothered with others who use the elevator as long as they are not fooling around with it. Both students are from Crystal Beach and in the General Arts and Science program.

It bothers me when I see someone perfectly capable of using the stairs wait for the elevator. It doesn't save time. It is quicker to take the stairs.

The problem is fat, lazy people who could afford to lose a few calories won't use the stairs.

See next Friday's *Niagara News* for

stories about Ed Booker, a Niagara College student and NDP candidate in the November federal election, and the weather conditions that challenge disabled students.

ROAD WARRIOR

PT Cruiser brings back taste of the past

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

Ever since the new Volkswagen Beetles were launched two years ago, there has been a new trend for retro-styled cars. Over the next few years, the car market will be full of such cars, like the eagerly awaited Jaguar F-Type, and for the summer of 2001 there will be the new Ford Thunderbird. Out now, though, is the Chrysler PT Cruiser.

Styled like a modern day interpretation of the old woody wagons, this car is an eye pleaser. The front end resembles the hot rods of the '50s, though this is no hot rod. What it is, is a very cool-looking family car that appeals to young and old people.

I've heard many explanations of what this car is, but I think I've got the correct answer. It's not a hatchback, nor is it a minivan. It is a hatch-minivan.

It has the driving position of a minivan, the utility of a minivan, yet the size and practicality and economy of a hatchback. Either way, it is a very clever design, not just from an engineering perspective, but also from a styling point of view.

If you want to buy a VW Beetle but want something more practical, this is your answer.

If you think the exterior is artwork, you should check out the interior. This is one nice place to be in.

The dash is stylish and shows quality, and the instrument binnacle is wonderful; even the air vents look nice. The only gripe I have is the placement of a few switches. The front window switches are in the middle of the dashboard, and the rear window switches are on the bottom of the centre console between the two front seats. They are set so low the only way you can use them while staying upright is if you operate them with your toe.

I also found the cabin to be very narrow, causing claustrophobia on longer drives. These are my only complaints. Otherwise, the cabin is wonderful.

The PT also drives quite nicely too. It may only have a 2.4 litre-, four-cylinder engine, producing a respectable 150 horsepower, which isn't enough to give this car the pace the looks suggest, but it's still no snail.

Power is fed to the front wheels via either a four-speed automatic gearbox or a five-speed manual gearbox. On an open road run, I found the engine tuneful and willing to easily accelerate this car over 100 km/h to pass other traffic, a feature that is important.

Handling is a little worrying. The vehicle tends to lean quite a bit, and that is not what you'd want in a narrow vehicle. I've seen this car go through the slalom course on TV, but you certainly won't find me trying to tip this thing over.

The brakes are nice, although the pedal has a spongy feel, and the steering feel is good. All in all, this is a great little car.

It's not at a bad price either, starting at just $25,000.

So, there you have it, the perfect family car. Now all Chrysler needs to do is offer us a two-door version and add a turbo charger and four-wheel drive. Then this thing will be an absolute blast. Since the company has already shown us a Concept PT Cruiser with just that *stuff on it, who knows? Maybe by* next year, that vehicle will be on sale too.

Regardless, Chrysler has another winner on its hand. Bravo Chrysler, bravo.

The 2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser is a huge seller and a big head-turner. Special thanks to Dan Beauchamp at Rose City Dodge Chrysler for helping us out with the picture.

Photo by Nauman Farooq

Where to turn for college cancellations

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Snow's swirling. Roads are icy and drifted over. There's a winter weather advisory. Knowing where to turn for the latest weather updates and school closures might save you from venturing into the storm.

In "adverse weather conditions" or similar emergency situations, Niagara College policy designates Steve Hudson, vice-president corporate services, responsible for making the closure call.

"Closing the college is a big decision. It affects the services offered by the college and it is not something we do lightly," explained Hudson.

He says making the decision whether to close a campus is discussed with Dan Patterson, college president, and the other vice-presidents.

In Hudson's absence, responsibility falls to Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic.

Niagara College has designated managers who reside in the Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Welland areas responsible for monitoring weather conditions that may require the college to close one or more campuses. They contact the person in charge of announcing closures before the start of morning classes.

By policy this should be done prior to 6:30 a.m. to allow timely notification to radio stations.

Students inquiring about college closures can call the switchboard at (905) 735-2211 or tune in to local radio stations for updates.

External announcements are made on the FM dial at CHRE 105.7, CHTZ 97.7, "The River" 101.1 and Spirit 91.7. Broadcasts can also be heard on the AM dial through CKTB 610, CHSC 1220, CJRN 710 and CHML 900.

Replacements at Maid of the Mist

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

Industry contact, function bookings and faculty interaction — these are just some of the new duties for Maria DiMartino, the new secretary at the Maid of the Mist campus for David Taylor, director hospitality and tourism.

DiMartino is replacing Lorraine Wink, but says it is "definitely temporary."

She began her new position on Jan. 3 and says so far it is "very good."

"It's a nice change and a different type of work than what I'm used to."

DiMartino's former position of reception clerk is being handled by Maria Cassford, while Janet Griffin has been assigned to Cassford's position of Continuing Education clerk.

Faculty appreciates students

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

Students, get ready for games, prizes, food and more food.

Next Thursday, Jan. 25, sets the date for the fifth annual Student Appreciation Day.

This event was started when a faculty member at Niagara College suggested faculty show students how much they mean to Niagara. Usually the day is a surprise but the college decided to inform students this year.

In the past, Student Appreciation Day offered such events as campus store discounts, opportunities to win prizes, games of skill and even seeing staff dress up or down.

There are many reasons to join in this excitement starting with hot cider and cookies in student services offices at all campuses, health basket giveaways and free concert at the student centres.

At the Glendale campus there will be games of skill in the gymnasium and raffle prizes. The Welland campus athletics department will be giving away free popcorn and raffle prizes and the Maid of the Mist facility is hosting campus-wide activities.

The faculty extend a warm welcome to all of Niagara College to attend this appreciation day on honour of all students, Brigitte Chiki, director of student services, says.

Niagara News Online

Watch for us online later this term at www.niagara-news.com
Keep reading the Niagara News for updates.

PROFILES

Kallio prepares students for future success

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Stewart Kallio's job is to oversee courses and programs focused on offering students access to college and the chance to succeed while helping them make the choices they want in their college or university careers.

Kallio is Niagara College's chairman of the School of General and Preparatory Studies at the Welland and Glendale campuses.

"A lot of what this school is about is allowing students into college and helping them to make the transition into college.

"We help students decide what they can do and what they want to do. We help them make decisions. We also help those who aren't doing well and decide they want to leave their program but not school; they can transfer into ours. This allows them to do some of their courses over again or do some new ones. This also allows them to enter other post-secondary programs."

Some entering college don't have the pre-requisites needed, so the programs offered —such as Career and College Vocational, General Arts and Science (GAS), Health Science Preparatory, Literary and Basic Skills— allow them to make an entry in programs into college or university.

The Career and College Vocational program offers students the skills and practice they need for employment. They receive hands-on experience and gain access to post-secondary programs.

Many students who are unsure of what they want to do enrol in General Arts and Science, allowing them to take various courses that may allow them to decide on a specialization.

"The School of General and Preparatory Studies has an articulation setup with Brock University in St. Catharines for students in the GAS program. This way they can enter university with the courses they have," Kallio said, adding the university path was launched last September with eight to 10 students in year two making the move this fall. It is estimated between 20 and 25 students in year one plan to continue to Brock once they finish here. Articulation agreements allow students from one educational institution to receive academic credit, and in some cases, preferred admission, at another.

"GAS is the area with which everything spins off. It takes care of all areas of learning, and all students can take these programs," Kallio said.

The Health and Science Preparatory program is designed for students who have been out of school for a while and lack the background in science. The courses in this area provide needed background in science, mathematics, computers and related courses that are necessary for entrance into health science programs across Canada and the United States.

Literary and Basic Skills, which is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Training for Colleges and Universities, gives students the skills they need in the workforce. It develops their writing, reading, math and computer skills at levels from basic to post-secondary.

Kallio said Niagara College is the largest provider of Literary and Basic Skills in the Niagara region.

Most choose this program if they did not get their diploma or received their diploma a long time ago and want to refresh their skills for employment, he explained.

"These are programs to help students and adults set up a training plan for employment as well as to make their transition into the workforce or further education a little easier. Many make this transition very successfully."

"All of the programs in these areas are not typical post-secondary programs. They aren't geared toward one certain area, but more so about helping students prepare to enter vocational careers. They have a strong vocational orientation," Kallio added.

Enrolment this year, for each program area, has seen a slight increase. Health and Science has had a few students enter the programs, GAS has remained the same, although the Literary and Basic Skills program now has about 130 students enrolled.

Kallio said the college is looking forward to preparing programs for GAS with more promotion, curriculum and resources, so that as more students take advantage of the courses, they can respond accordingly. Also, he said, he hopes through this it will increase numbers in this program.

Stewart Kallio relaxes with a coffee as he talks with students.

Photo by Hilary Taylor

Kallio said he has always received positive response from students regarding these programs.

"I hear an awful lot of different types of comments from students about all these programs (and) good stories from students who have gone on to work or to other programs," he said.

Kallio said he can't take all the credit "because it's the faculty and support staff that make the program work."

"This is a very busy place. We spend a lot of time trying to inform the rest of the college, students and community about the value of what we do and offer to the school. It's a big job getting out the message, and publicity like this helps."

Kallio concluded by saying he wanted students to know that these courses are available to all students in the college.

Distance will test strength of students' true love

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer

Junko Matsushimo, 20, came to Canada in May last year. In June she met the man she will marry.

Matsushimo, of Sapporo, Japan, and Choi Kyu Ho, 23, of Seoul, South Korea, are students in the English as a Second Language program at Niagara College.

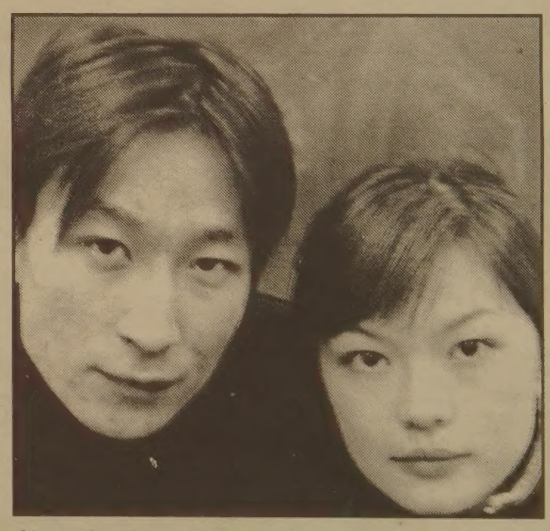
Choi says they will marry after they graduate from school and herein lies their problem.

They will be separated by more than 15,000 km. when Choi has to return to Korea on Feb. 2.

Choi had to take a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) to get into university. He applied to the University of Toronto and he needed a TOEFL mark around 600 to get in. He says it is "really hard to get a mark like that." He got 550.

Since Choi missed that mark, he will be returning to the University of Korea to take an Architectural Engineering program there. Matsushimo will stay here to take the Office Administration program. Choi says they are very sad about being separated.

Choi says, "We will have to try our best and send lots of e-mail."



Choi Kyu Ho, of South Korea, plans to marry Junko Matsushimo, of Japan.

Photo by Clinton Haggart

Distance is only one of the obstacles Matsushimo and Choi face. They still haven't told their parents they plan to marry. They have told their parents they are dating, but that's it.

Choi says they plan on having a wedding in Korea and again in Japan if they can afford it. Choi says it's traditional in Korea for the groom to go to the bride's house with a big bag of gifts on his back for the bride's family. "The groom wears a dried squid mask and then asks the parents, 'Please accept me to marry your daughter.'"

Matsushimo says they will be living in Korea. "I've never been there," she says. "I am a little scared because the language is completely different." Matsushimo and Choi communicate in English, but Matsushimo says she may take a course in Korean.

Matsushimo says, "He always says something funny and he takes care of me." In Korea all men are required to spend 14 months in the military, and Choi chose to be in the Navy Seals.

"My colour changed to black (tanned) because of the sun, but it shows you how important free life and family are."

Student loan program undergoing major changes

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

Canada's student loan program has been handed over by the federal government to two private companies, including one that is almost half American owned.

EDULINX Canada Corp., of Mississauga, and BDP Business Data Services Ltd., of Toronto, won contracts before Christmas to manage loans worth about $1.8 billion a year.

EDULINX is owned 51 per cent by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) and 49 per cent by USA Education Inc., a Virginian student loan provider. They will serve students attending public colleges and universities.

The contract will begin on March 1. It will be worth $91.6 million over the next three years.

BDP's contract is worth $45.7 million over the same period. They will serve borrowers who attend colleges and training schools.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) say they believe EDULINX was a wrong choice based upon principle.

"As a matter of principle, it should have been a 100 per cent Canadian owned company," said Kieran Green, communications co-ordinator of CASA.

CASA is a national coalition of student governments, representing over 300,000 post-secondary students nationwide.

Green says they have heard concerns being voiced in the U.S. concerning EDULINX's performance there and CASA is wary of CIBC's performance. CIBC was half of the old system with Royal Bank.

Green says the federal government has been bailing CIBC out.

The two companies will be taking over for the banks who currently run the program. The banks were under contract for about $50 million a year. Their contract ran out on Aug. 1, 2000, but they agreed to continue their involvement until March 1, for an additional $69 million.

In published reports, one bank official described student loan writeoffs as a "hemorrage" of cash.

Green says that to make real changes the federal government must look at their loan policy.

He says "the key" is interest rates which haven't changed. He says that the government must also look at how needs are determined in distributing loans.

EDULINX and BDP were chosen to run the service because they offer Internet and voice-mail service along with on-campus kiosks with online access.

Green says, "if they follow through with their promises and communications improve, it will certainly help students. Communications is the key. They have good ideas, but they need to prove it to us."

FAMILIAR FACES

Laureen Ventnor, library technician, working at her desk in the LRC.

Francine Pinard, secretary of centre for disabilities, takes an important phone call in Student Services.

Bonnie Rose, vice president academic, talks with students at a reception for the Human Relations program.

Tanis Boak, liaison assistant, works at the Niagara College information desk.

Photos by Hilary Taylor and Scott Thomson.

Halina Reinert, Aramark employee, makes change for Niagara students.

Bonnie and Sylvia working together at the Welland Campus book store.

Director of Ancillary Services, Sandy Fox, working hard at her desk.

Carolyn Gould, college nurse, hard at work in the Health Centre.

WRAP IT UP

Message for women about sexual health

By CRYSTAL LANGILLE
Staff Writer

Listen up, ladies.

While a few generations ago talking about sex was nonexistent, contraception was for the married and women's sexual health wasn't an issue to be discussed, today these issues are open to anyone willing to talk about them.

Abstinence is the only way to completely eliminate the possibility of acquiring an STD.

So, let's talk.

Although the issue of "safe sex" has probably been thrown at you since high school, studies show women still aren't getting it.

According to the 1998 Canadian Contraception Study, only 68 per cent of single 18- to 24-year-old women reported having always used contraception during sex in the past six months.

Apparently all those lectures, brochures and public service announcements didn't quite reach everyone.

Let's put aside the obvious — pregnancy — for just a moment. I'm sure you've all heard about human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), right?

Most young women don't realize they are 23 times more vulnerable than men to HIV, AIDS, or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Is your pleasure worth this death sentence?

How about chlamydia or gonorrhea?

Eighty per cent of women may not have symptoms, and although the diseases are curable with antibiotics, late diagnosis and complications include pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), ectopic pregnancy and sterility.

Frightening?

OK, let's look at the incurables. Herpes, genital warts and hepatitis B are linked to complications such as cervical cancer, liver cancer and a lifetime of recurring, painful blisters. These are treatable but not curable.

Now, add pregnancy to the mix, and newborns could enter the world with pneumonia, serious eye infections, dental and bone deformities, blindness, brain damage and death.

Contraceptives are readily available almost anywhere you live. They are safe and can be provided confidentially.

When something is wrong with your body, you usually know. With STDs however, that's not always the case.

At the risk of sounding like your mother, let's prevent STDs instead of having to deal with them.

Abstinence is the only way to completely eliminate the possibility of acquiring a STD.

Of course, unlike your mother, I know that most of you are having sex.

STDs don't occur just in people who have had numerous sexual partners.

Anyone who is sexually active is at risk.

Besides educating yourself about STDs, women and men should be aware of their partner's past sexual history.

Condoms are the surest things for sexually active people in preventing diseases. They are easy to use and are available in almost every pharmacy, drug store, convenience store and doctor's office.

The excuse that condoms "don't feel the same" is in actuality a lame one.

Using water-based lubricants can elevate pleasure.

Besides, the "feeling" of having a STD is probably a whole lot worse.

STDs don't just occur in people who have had numerous sexual partners.

It's your body and it's your life.

Sex can be an exciting moment between two people or a passionate moment of love for a couple but it, like everything else, comes with a warning label.

Be sure to read the package insert carefully.

For information regarding STDs and their treatment, you can contact the Sexual Health Centre in St. Catharines at (905) 688-3817 or 1-800-263-5757, or Planned Parenthood's toll free number at 1-800-INFOSEX.

Some new birth control options for women

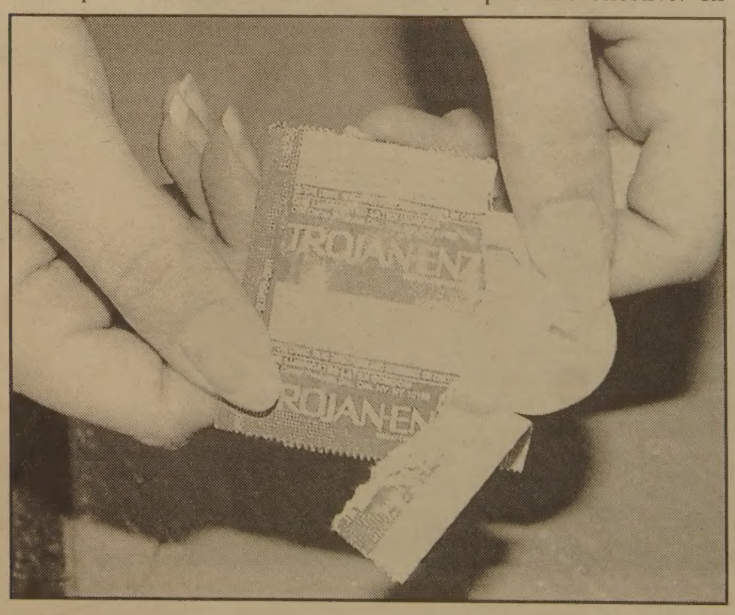
By CRYSTAL LANGILLE
Staff Writer

Over the past 30 years, there have been many changes in birth control methods. There are also some new options.

Depo-Provera involves getting a nearly painless injection by a doctor or health care provider once every three months. It contains a hormone that stops the release of a mature egg. It is 99.7 per cent effective and if administered at the appropriate time, Depo-Provera is effective immediately.

The "Pill" is an oral contraceptive tablet taken at the same time every day until the pill package is used up. It contains natural hormones that stop the release of an egg. When used as directed, the pill has an effectiveness of 99 per cent. As an added advantage, the pill regulates menstruation, can eliminate menstrual cramps, lowers the risk of cancer of the ovaries and endrometrium, protects against pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), has acne-fighting effects and minimizes abnormal hair growth.

The Contraceptive Implant consists of six small flexible rods that contain a synthetic hormone. The rods are inserted under the skin, and the hormone is slowly released into the body, stopping the release of an egg. It is more than 99 per cent effective. Its effects can last up to five years and it can be surgically removed at any time.



These are just some of the many condoms available.

Photos by Tara Ford

Of course, all forms of contraception come with some minor disadvantages. Talk to your doctor about which method would best suit you.

Sterilization is 95 to 100 per cent effective. Female sterilization is often referred to as having your "tubes tied" and requires a surgical procedure that closes the fallopian tubes between the ovaries and the uterus. Male sterilization is known as a vasectomy, which requires surgery to close the small tubes through which sperm are released.

Condoms prevent pregnancy by restricting sperm from entering the vagina and fertilizing an egg. Its success rate ranges from 88 to 98 per cent when used alone and even higher when combined with spermicide. The condom also protects against STDs, including HIV and AIDS.

The Female Condom is similar to a male condom in that it prevents sperm from entering the vagina during intercourse. It fits inside the vagina and is available over the counter without a prescription. Its effectiveness against pregnancy ranges from 75 to 87 per cent.

Vaginal Spermicides come in the form of creams, jellies or foams. They contain a small amount of chemical that kills sperm. The spermicide is put into the vagina before intercourse. Effectiveness ranges from 79 to 97 per cent depending on correct use and use with a condom.

Of course, all forms of contraception come with some minor disadvantages. Talk to your doctor about which method would best suit you.

LAUGH TRACK

Thomas rules (Damn Near Everything)

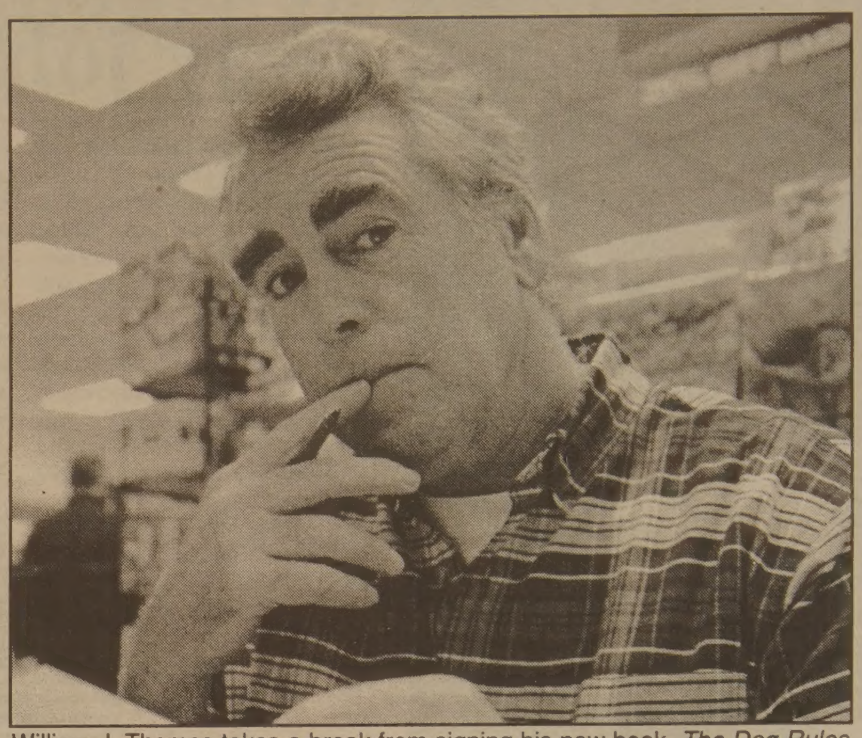
By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

William J. Thomas is walking towards Coles Bookstore in the hustle and bustle of Seaway Mall wearing a tan-sleeved, blue denim jacket, with an old, worn, light tan leather bookbag slung over his right shoulder. No, the 54-year-old isn't a lumberjack, though he did work in a lumber camp. He is Niagara's best-selling humour writer and lives on Sunset Bay's shores in Wainfleet, Ont.

To add to his workingman look, he wears a blue, green, yellow and white plaid work shirt, with light blue Levi-Strauss jeans and beige Kodiak-like winter boots.

The six-foot humour writer, with an athletic build, is on hand at Cole's Bookstore to sign his latest release *The Dog Rules (Damn Near Everything)*.

Thomas's stock in trade is as a humour columnist for 45 Canadian newspapers. He begins, he says, with "something the audience should be aware of" or "a nugget of truth," adds some research and then adds the comedy. He "weaves a magical, insane story" around an event, then exaggerates and satirizes it. Thomas warned though "it must be believable." He takes a big issue and "melts it down" into a column, or takes a little issue and "blows it up" into a book.



William J. Thomas takes a break from signing his new book, *The Dog Rules (Damn Near Everything)*, at Cole's Bookstore at Seaway Mall on Dec. 15, 2000.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

Memorable Quotes

- *That's when I said, as any dog lover would: "But honey, he's keeping me company!"*

Never say that to a woman. By my estimation, it makes a long weekend way, way, way too long.

- *And let's face it, neutering the president of the United States would be far less than impeachment.*

These quotes are just a lick of what you will find in William J. Thomas's The Dog Rules (Damn Near Everything)

Thomas says his humour from his late mother Margaret. "She was too sweet and kind to be a humour writer. I see things differently and those are the joys of the world."

He taps on the pad of paper, points to the pen, and says, "That's all you need to write. I hate anything modern." If he had it his way, "I would like to go back to the 20's (1920s). I don't trust any of that stuff." The "stuff" is computers and anything technologically advanced, but he does have a cell phone.

Thomas has written six books including *Margaret and Me, Malcolm and Me: Life in the Litterbox, Guys - Not Real Bright and Proud of It* and *Hey! Is That Guy Dead, Or Is He The Skip?*

Humour is his way to communicate — at all times. Regarding his height of six feet, Thomas commented, "I am one of the most powerful human beings on the face of this earth. So don't try anything."

Thomas thought about what makes him unique and says simply "nothing." Although he is a humour writer, to him it is "the toughest type of writing to execute. I think it is pretty safe to say that I am pretty good at it." "It" means "consistently humour writing."

He began writing 22 years ago when his ex-wife Nancy told him to do what he always dreamt of doing — writing. At that time they "had no obligations," children or a house, so Nancy dropped him off at the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie; he then hitchhiked to New York City. When he arrived, he caught the plane to London, England.

Once there, Thomas hitchhiked to Dover. At that time, there was a rail strike. "I loved hitchhiking so much, I hitchhiked to the south of France, where I had a job waiting for me at Joseph Drovhin winery." The winery is in Beaune, France and Thomas says the winery still makes "fine wine."

He wrote about his experiences at the winery for *Wine Press* magazine. They "published every word, published every photo and I haven't been able to do anything worthwhile since." At the winery, Thomas helped with the winemaking and gathering of grapes. After writing the article on the winery, Thomas lived in Spain for the rest of the year. He lived in Torremolinos, near Malaga, where he taught tennis.

The Dog Rules

- *Okay, the dog can drive at night by himself, but not if he's been drinking. No way. That's against the law.*
- *A dog will never jump up to greet a woman . . . unless she's wearing white.*
- *A dog passing gas will always be under the table where your guests are sitting.*
- *Absolutely no biting the players unless its John Rocker . . .*
- *Barking, okay. Yeowling, all right. But no harmonizing.*

Thomas says when he first started out in the writing industry, even had he known it was going to be difficult in the first 10 years, he still would have continued with the process. He says writers should not be in the industry just for the money.

"There is so little money in writing to make a good living. It's just not there. It is horrific what you have to break in."

On pitching ideas to publishers, "It is always difficult. They see so much material."

Thomas says handling the rejection letters is "hard at first because you think you are a wonderful writer, but others think you are not a wonderful writer. After a time you laugh at the rejection letters. It's no different than any other creative industry."

In 1982, Thomas began his own magazine called *What's Up Niagara?*, but quit in 1986 to write a screenplay *Breaking All the Rules — The Story of Trivial Pursuit*.

The staff from *Alive and Well* magazine joined Thomas to work for this publication, owned and published by the St. Catharines Standard. The project was not difficult to start because the whole staff, reporters and photographers, quit and they were "ready to go to the new magazine."

Thomas missed writing for *What's Up Niagara?*, so a Port Colborne newspaper offered him an opportunity to write a weekly column. When the paper asked how much he wanted, Thomas said $50 but "the guy just about had a heart attack. So I insisted on $20, so I could tell my mother I made twice as much as Ann Landers, who was getting $10."

Thomas's column appeared in the *Fort Erie Times-Review* courtesy of Danny Zacks, a bar on Niagara Street in Buffalo, N.Y. Since the paper had no budget funds to pay Thomas for the column, he got a sponsor. "I didn't need the money." Thomas received a $75 bar tab a month and that went on for six years.

When asked if he enjoyed touring to promote his books, Thomas says, "Enjoyed is a pretty strong word." He did at first, but after a while, it cut into his time, especially for writing. "If I don't get in three or four hours of writing a day, I'm miserable."

He credits his publicist team especially when the interview session is productive. He will tour if necessary. If the interviews and shows are great, "it's all worthwhile."

As a writer, Thomas also has some favourite fellow writers. "I absolutely adore William Trevor, an English short story writer." Add to the list John Irving, an American writer, along with Allistair MacLeod, whose best work Thomas says is *No Great Mischief*. In addition, "I always loved Alice Munro."

Thomas says if there were anything he could change in his life, it would be "to reverse my writing time with the business of writing time. (I would like to spend) five hours a day writing instead and just two or three hours on the phone pitching (novel and screenwriting) ideas."

"First writing and then anything else" is how he orders what is important in his life.

"The time I spent with my mother Margaret" is what he considers his best moments in life. When she passed away, it was one of the "worst moments" in his life, since they had a close relationship.

Tennis is one of Thomas's interests along with movies. In one magazine article he replied that, "Thawing winter pipes was enjoyable, but not nearly as gratifying as mashing spiders in Malcolm's (his cat) ears."

Thomas commented on government funding for the arts. "If the government doesn't support the arts, no one will. With world globalization and trade profits ruling all aspects of life on this planet, government support is more vital than ever. Who would read a poem rather than buy something made of plastic that flashes digitally or talks to you out of a fish's mouth?"

He has applied for grant funding, but has never been chosen.

Thomas believes the aspect people identify with in his writing is "first, the connection that it's funny and then the realization 'Good Lord – it's also true!'"

If Thomas were not writing, he'd be guiding walking tours all over the world. He has travelled to New Zealand and Portugal (a destination where he would like to live), Japan and Morocco.

Thomas is a local boy. He was born at the Welland County General Hospital and attended Welland High School; he demurs at remembering the year he graduated.

He attended Brock University in St. Catharines for one year and Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo for two years to receive his bachelor of arts in English History.

"I had no idea what the hell I was going to do with it."

His employment history is varied and likely offered numerous opportunities to see life's laughable lining.

From truck driver to five-month waiter at Trail, B.C.'s Crown Point Hotel, he hitchhiked back to Niagara in "a record" two days.

He's cut peat moss in Wainfleet, rolled steel at "every steel mill" in Welland and wrestled logs at a lumber camp in Castlegar, B.C.

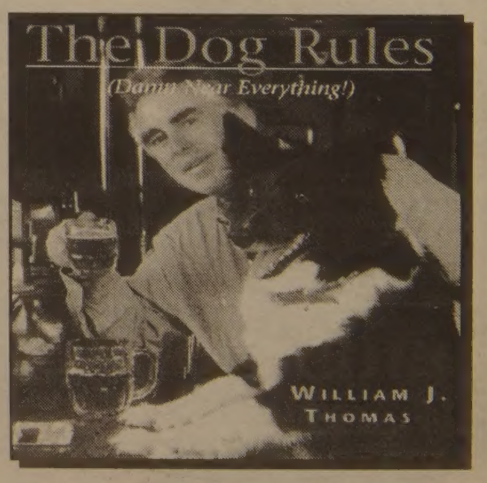
From trees, he went into selling textbooks for Merrill Publishing to universities and colleges across Canada for four years. His last "traditional" job was at 3M Innovation company selling audio/visual equipment. He threw all that over his shoulder to start his writing career.

For the deep-blue-eyed, greying, wavy-haired humour writer "creating things on paper from nothing," along with "making people laugh" is what he enjoys.

"I absolutely love it."

The Dog Dictionary

doggie style *. . . nothing to do with fashion*
a hard dog to keep on the porch *. . . Bill Clinton*
underdog *. . . where fleas go to get out of the sun*
a hot dog *. . . Oscar Mayer*
the triple dog dare *. . . surpassing the single and outdoing the double, this is the defiant stare that declares dog war. You need a good truce, Judge Judy and a good dog attorney*



STUDENT ISSUES

Juli Safrak is the lucky winner of a mountain bike donated by Canadian Tire, Montrose Road, Niagara Falls. The draw generated a lot of interest in the Job Connect Centre's services for youth.
Submitted photo

Job Centre gives away jobs, bikes

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

The Niagara Falls Job Connect Centre is now not only giving away jobs but mountain bikes too.

On Dec. 14, 2000, the Job Connect Centre, located on Huggins Street, held a draw for a mountain bike as a marketing tool for the centre's services to young people. The bike was donated from the Canadian Tire on Montrose Road in Niagara Falls, one of the centre's employers. Bea Clark, director of Ventures division, and Trevor Greenall, marketing associate for Niagara College Career Centre, Job Connect, two of the centre's employees, held the bike draw to create an interest in the centre. They also had flyers distributed to local shopping malls to grab the community's attention.

Job Connect was established in 1996 to assist the community in finding jobs. The centre's target is the age group of 16 to 24 years. Criteria for participation in the centre's services are that the individual must be out of work and school and must not be receiving Employment Insurance.

The government-funded centre is affiliated with Niagara College's Ventures division and offers three programs to assist youth.

The first program is the Information and Referral Service, which offers a fully equipped computerized resource area open weekdays to help with résumé, job search and career assistance.

The second is the Employment Planning and Preparation program which provides individual support and assistance to help develop an action plan for employment goals. The final program is Job Development Placement Support, which provides opportunities for on-the-job training linking individuals with employers to obtain permanent employment.

"Over the last several months, at the Niagara Falls Centre, we are very proud of the services we have been providing the community and have been exceeding our ministry targets on a monthly basis," says Greenall. "We attribute much of the success to the dedication and determination of the staff here who are committed to the program and the community they serve."

$500 CONTEST!

Last Chance To Win Big!!!!
Open To Smokers, Ex-Smokers, Non-Smokers

"LET'S MAKE A DEAL"

Sign Up @ Health Services
LAST DAY IS TODAY (JAN. 19, 2001)

This is presented to you by

Leave the Pack Behind

http://www.leavethepackbehind.org

Funding for this program has been provided in part by the Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. No endorsement by the ministry is intended or should be inferred: La Stratégie antitabac de l'Ontario, Direction de la santé communautaire et de la promotion de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée finance ce programme en partie. Le ministère ne sanctionne d'aucune façon l'information contenue dans cette publication.

The 'Leave the Pack Behind' name for this program has been adopted, with permission, from the World Health Organization's 1999 World No Tobacco day campaign.

Created by: Catherine Leblanc & Erika Steibelt (Queen's University

Globe and Mail's Web site offers college info

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

The Globe and Mail's Web site has found a way to make students' lives just a little bit easier.

Schoolfinder.com and ScholarshipsCanada.com have joined the globeandmail.com/campus site to provide students easy access to information on schools they may wish to attend.

Schoolfinder.com assists students in selecting a college or university, and ScholarshipsCanada.com contains information on thousands of scholarships and bursaries.

Both sites are published by EDge Interactive Publishing Inc., a media company that develops and produces interactive Web sites and CDs. The globeandmail.com/campus site is run by Globe Interactive, which operates the globeandmail.com Web Centre.

Lib Gibson, president and CEO of Globe Interactive, said in a press release, "Joining forces with EDge Interactive is a demonstration of our commitment to deliver students useful resources that they can derive direct benefit from within a single Web destination.

"The database systems they offer to students are outstanding in their scope and effectiveness."

Christopher Wilkins, president and CEO of EDge Interactive, said in a press release, "The search to find the right college or university program and then to finance it is among the most important, yet difficult, processes a student can go through. We are in the business of simplifying those searches by doing the leg-work for the student."

Aside from application criteria and scholarship opportunities, globeandmail.com/campus provides information on career planning and is targeted specifically towards students.

THE GLOBE AND MAIL
globeandmail.com/campus

CAMPUS COVERAGE

New manager to oversee college's facilities

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Tony Scime is the new manager of Facilities Management Services at Niagara College.

He stepped into his new position on Dec. 11, 2000.

Scime oversees taking care of all facility problems, the receiving department, mail and the upkeep of the grounds at the Welland campus, Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

Scime oversees two supervisors, 20 full-time workers and seven part-time workers.

"I handle trade and service requests, electrical, heat, ventilation and air conditioning as well as customer service. I also oversee the three campuses' caretaking, cleaning, groundskeeping and snow plowing," said Scime.

"This has been a change from where I was before. The change is a step up. Going from a supervisor to a manager is definitely where I was trying to guide my career."

He said his first intention is to try to bring all campuses together instead of addressing issues on an individual campus basis. He said he wants to see an upgrade of the older buildings, especially at the Welland campus.

His interests off-campus are varied. Scime is married to his wife, Diana, and has two children, Adam and Danielle.

TONY SCIME

He is the coach of his son's hockey team. "I enjoy watching my kids play. Five nights a week Diana and I are running the kids from hockey to basketball."

He's both a sports nut and a handyman.

"I built my house five years ago and I am still trying to finish it, so I guess that's kind of a hobby."

Scime said that not only is the college trying to improve the buildings at all three campuses, but it is building new ones.

"First is the new police building with the firing range, which we hope will be done by spring. The second is to build a new residence at the Maid of the Mist campus as well as the renovations that are being done. But at the moment, no new renovations are going to be done, except the ones we have made to some programs."

Scime said from his position he is trying to look down the road.

"We are involved in a program with the province that is an inventory system of the buildings and any deficiencies in them. This will allow us to identify any renovations we want done and how to budget to attack them wisely in the next five to 10 years."

Scime said he hopes his position will be long term. "Moving up the ropes has opened my eyes to how things are operated."

New ESL teacher enjoys teaching and travelling

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

With the growth in the number of international students at Niagara College, several new teachers have been hired. Stacy Turner is one of them.

Turner, 27, from Mississauga but now of Niagara-on-the-Lake, holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and theatre from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. She also earned a certificate from George Brown College in Toronto in the Teaching English as a Second Language program.

With a desire to teach and travel, Turner said she chose her current profession in 1997. She has travelled to many countries in Europe and Asia, including England, France, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia.

STACY TURNER

Her travels also took her to employment in Japan for two years, where she taught English in a junior high school and elementary school in addition to teaching adult classes.

She said she "loved living in Japan" adding, "The people were very kind."

She lived in the village of Yasuoko, but visited many parts of Japan, including Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan. The big cities of Kyoto and Tokyo were also stops in her travels.

Turner heard of a job opening here from friends who are now her co-workers. Her responsibilities include teaching reading, writing and language lab classes at the Welland campus.

Comparing her teaching experiences, Turner said, "Working in Japan was a lot more regimented in structure. In Canada, there is a lot more room for your character to work. (It) allows more freedom."

Which does she think she likes more? "Because I lived in Japan for so long, I became a part of the community. It was a real good experience."

New students join ESL

Fifty-seven new faces from many different countries have joined the student ranks at Niagara College this term. A total of 57 new English as a Second Language (ESL) program students from 10 countries are here for the January Start, said Susan Vandenboom, co-ordinator for the ESL program. The countries include China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Venezuela, Columbia, Libya, Tanzania and Hong Kong.

Photo by Nauman Farooq

Helping save lives

Captain Bruno Castonguay coordinates air rescue for the Canadian Forces. He and his colleagues and partners help Canadians in danger. They respond around the clock to emergencies on land or at sea and help save lives. This is just one of the hundreds of services provided by the Government of Canada.

For more information on government services:
- Visit the **Service Canada Access Centre** nearest you
- Visit **www.canada.gc.ca**
- Call **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)**
  TTY/TDD: **1 800 465-7735**

Canada

PASS THE POPCORN

Hanks breathes life into predictable story

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

Tom Hanks has worked with many talented leading ladies. In his new movie, Cast Away, he develops a deep and meaningful relationship . . . with a volleyball.

Cast Away, the No. 1 movie in North America, is an updated version of Robinson Crusoe. Hanks plays Chuck Noland, a Federal Express troubleshooter who finds himself stranded on a deserted Pacific island after his plane crashes.

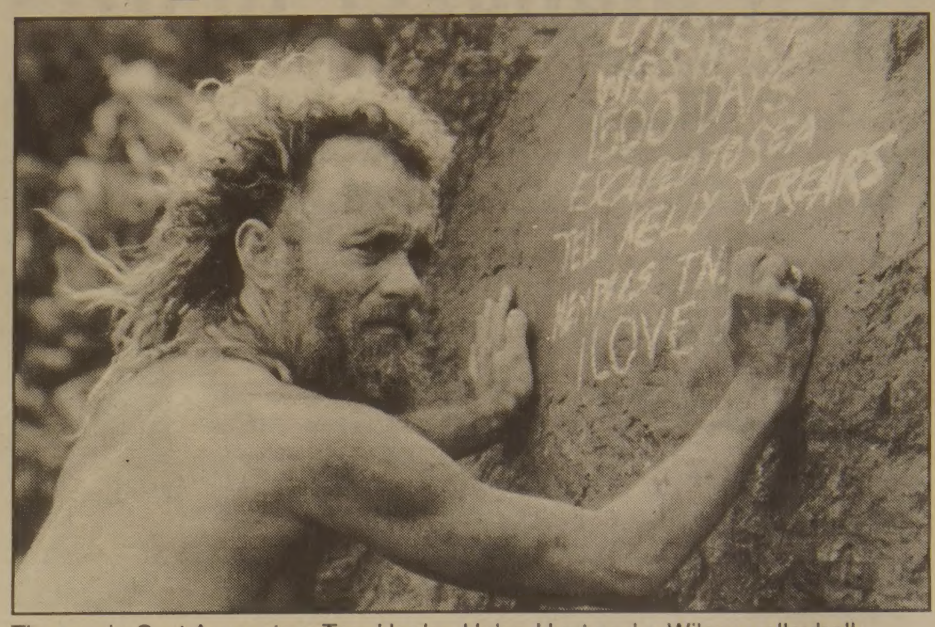
He leaves behind his girlfriend, played by Helen Hunt, who becomes the focus of his will to survive.

The movie focuses on Hanks' adjustment to life on the island and on his difficulty dealing with the acute isolation. The film's best scenes are on the island, as we watch Hanks transform himself from a chubby Federal Express employee to a loincloth-wearing nutball. Hanks took a year off the production to lose weight and grow an enormous beard. The result is startling.

The movie has a few serious weaknesses. Director Robert Zemeckis struggles to make something profound out of a predictable and uneven screenplay. What results is a film lost in limbo between the action genre and melodrama.

At one point in the film, a Federal Express package floats to shore. Hanks opens the package to find a volleyball, which he names Wilson after its make. The volleyball is a device introduced into the story to allow the audience to hear what Hanks' character is thinking. While it is effective in doing this, the sight of Hanks having deep, meaningful conversations with a ball destroys the audience's willing suspension of disbelief. At that point, you are aware you are watching a movie.

Hanks is the best thing about this film. He gives a remarkable performance, which goes a long way to redeeming the production. The result is a somewhat lame and boring, but mildly entertaining film.



The movie Cast Away stars Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt and a Wilson volleyball.
Photo by 20th Century Fox

Packed full of morals, The Family Man a date movie

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer

I was a little unsure about seeing The Family Man, starring Nicolas Cage.

It looked like another "chick flick," but Cage usually picks good scripts (unless you count City of Angels).

After saving a convenience store manager from an angry customer with a gun, Cage goes to bed a rich Wall Street trader and wakes up in a domestic life. The angry customer shows up throughout the movie, as different people, to tell Cage he has a lesson to learn.

Cage stumbles through his new life until he learns he was missing love in his life all along. That's when he wakes up as a Wall Street trader again, and has to fix his life.

The Family Man may strum the heartstrings but it is a good movie. It isn't as good as Con Air or Face/Off but it has good points, like co-star Téa Leoni's really naked truths through a shower door.

The Family Man is funny and touching. It's the kind of movie a man takes only a date to, unless he wants to feel emasculated, which is probably how Cage's character felt when he found out he sold tires for a living.

From fast cars and easy living to dirty diapers and slobbering dogs, if Cage's character didn't have a wife like Leoni to comfort him, or to dance naked in the shower, who knows what he would do?

This is the kind of movie that is drenched in morals that makes people feel bad about themselves.

It is worth seeing, but not seeing alone. Take a date, so you don't feel so silly being the only single person in the theatre.

Tony Lee controls the stage with his power of suggestion

Continued from page 1

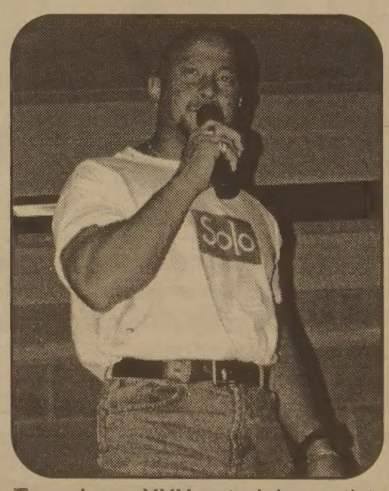
The 19 participants were winnowed to eight at the end of the performance.

Lee said the most people he has ever hypnotized was "about 50 at once, but eight to 12 is a good group to work with. More than that can be distracting."

Lee, who usually travels in his 1998 Hummer, is off to Brock University tomorrow. He said, "We are pretty much hitting every campus in Ontario by April."

Ontario college campuses are not Lee's only venue; he has taken his show worldwide, from the United States and Mexico to as far away as the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia.

Nominated for nine campus awards and winner of three, Lee is launching a Web site that will feature his animated self.



Tony Lee, XXX rated hypnotist, showed his powers at After Hours on Jan. 16.
Photo by Ryan McLaughlin

"It's Tony Lee, the hypnotist, touring around, and I become a super hero named Hummer Boy."

Lee said, "The whole cartoon is f***ed up, it's not anything that will get us arrested. It's like the Simpson's and Andrew Dice Clay with mild pornography and sick practical jokes."

The Tony Lee Web site, www.xxxtonylee.com, is being designed by Nexus Communications, and will be up and running in about two months.

"The production end of it is quite extensive, it will be the most state of the art Web site," Lee said.

Caught in 'The Cell'

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

Finally, there's a psychological thriller movie that delivers mind-numbing results. The Cell is a perfect blend of Silence of the Lambs and The Matrix.

The beautiful Jennifer Lopez (Out of Sight) stars as Catherine Deane, a child psychologist with a passion for helping others. Although Lopez is better known for her musical talent and frequent appearances in *Maxim* magazine, she comes through with a solid stage performance in this movie.

The story centres on Deane and a group of neurological scientists who have found a way to virtually enter the mind of a human being. However, the project has only been tested on a comatose young boy.

Following the kidnapping and death of several women, the FBI tracks down a delusional and corrupt serial killer named Carl Stargher (Vincent D'Onofrio). When the arrest is made, agent Peter Novak (Vince Vaughn-Swingers) looks toward Deane for help. Why? One girl is still missing and Stargher has fallen into a coma.

Director Tarsem explores the subconscious imagination like never before. Once you enter the mind of a serial killer, you'll never want to return.

If you're the type of viewer who enjoys fantasy (meaning today's scientists cannot penetrate the mind as The Cell does), this movie is for you. With a well-scripted plot and numerous moments of intense excitement, The Cell evokes a variety of emotions. Its images are creepy, the ideas are disturbing and the scenes are frightening.

In order to feel the entire effect of this unique masterpiece, turn up the volume and watch it in the dark. I give The Cell five out of five stars.

All things that make good movies get stuck in 'Traffic'

Drama about drug trade a letdown for cinema goers

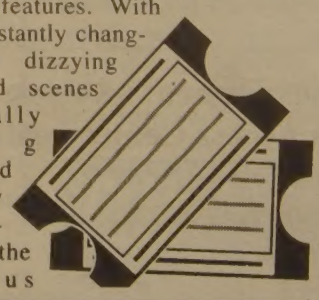
By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

Drugs, lies and red tape fill two and a half hours of Steven Soderbergh's gritty new film, Traffic.

This adaptation of Simon Moore's 1989 TV mini-series follows the lives of about a half dozen characters and how they relate to the Mexican-American drug trade.

Starring Michael Douglas, Benicio Del Toro and Catherine Zeta-Jones, Traffic is loaded with talent, yet somehow still falls short.

The film is shot as if Soderbergh had just received his first super-8 camera for Christmas and wanted to play with all of its neato features. With angles constantly changing in a dizzying array, and scenes continually being drowned out by back lighting, the numerous sub-plots were diluted and unentertaining.



Soderbergh earned fame early in his career with his critically acclaimed indie film Sex, Lies, and Videotape and has since gone on to have great success with his recent releases Out of Site, and Erin Brockovich. However, Traffic, though full of good intentions, tries too hard to be a social commentary and a psuedo documentary, yet fails at both.

20 QUESTIONS

Look who's answering our 20 questions now, read on to find out the juicy answers

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

Connie Bliek, 19, of Port Colborne, is a student in the Educational Resources and Special Needs program at Niagara College. She is dating our very own Clinton Haggart. She quickly found out, though, that the only thing harder than listening to Clinton babble along all day is answering our 20 questions.

Q. Name your favourite restaurant.
Taco Bell.

Q. Name six of your favourite songs.
One Step Closer by Linkin Park, *Wonderful* by Everclear, *Rollin* by Limp Bizkit, *Loser* by 3Doors down, *Break Stuff* by Limp Bizkit, and *Angel* by Sarah McLachlan.

Q. What is your favourite quote or line from a song?
"Shut up. I'm talking to you," by Linkin Park.

Q. What was/is your favourite children's program?
Barney.

Q. Who or what always makes you laugh?
Clinton Haggart.

Greatest achievement? 'Getting the stench out of Clinton's old socks.'

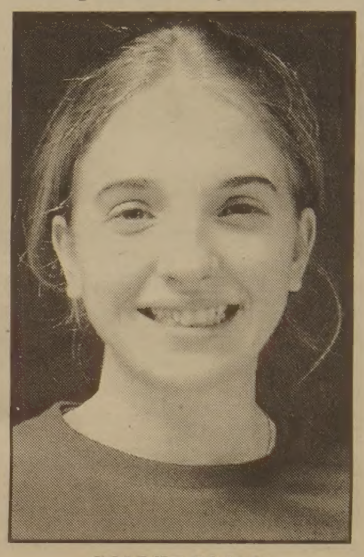
Q. What was the worst job you ever had?
Being a waitress at Captain Cookes. They closed when I quit.

Q. What was the bravest thing you ever did?
Get in a car with Denny. She is a big dork.

Q. What is your greatest achievement?
Getting the stench out of Clinton's old socks (and we thank you for that).

Q. What is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?
Noreen Blagden took notes for me for Hewitt's class last semester.

Q. What is the most embarrassing moment of your life?



CONNIE BLIEK

In high school, I loved Mark and my sister told him all about it.

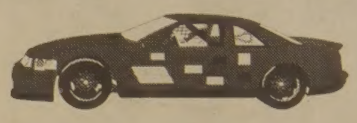
Q. Who is your idol or hero?
Fred Durst.

Q. What is your everyday car?
My two feet.

Q. If you were a car, what car would you be?
Porsche Boxster, small and fast.

Q. What car, cost no object, would you like to drive for the next 12 months?
Porsche Boxster.

Q. What did you want to be when you grew up?
Race car driver.



Q. When did you decide to go into your current career?
In high school, I peer tutored the Special Ed class.

Q. What was your New Year's resolution?
Did not have one.

Most embarrassing moment? 'In high school, I loved Mark and my sister told him all about it.'

Q. If you could have dinner with anyone, past or present, who would it be and why?
Fred Durst. (Sorry, Clinton. She didn't pick you.)

Q. If you could go for a vacation anywhere, where would you go?
Cuba.

Q. What is the meaning of life?
There is no meaning. Make it what you want.

NOW OPEN
On The Cutting Edge
Hair Salon for Ladies & Men

Services Available
•Hair Styling
•Esthetics
•Masseuse
•Tanning

Appointment Not Always Necessary

440 Niagara Street
Welland, Ontario
L3C 1L5
(905) 788-0348

SPORTS

Knights win tight game against south rivals

By AARON WILSON
Staff writer

It was Niagara versus Niagara in the final.

The Niagara College Knights men's basketball team went down to the wire against Niagara Community College, their arch American rivals from Niagara Falls, N.Y.

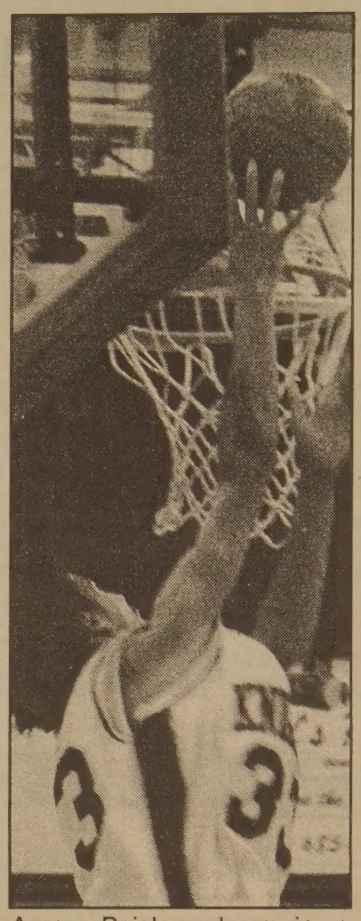
With eight minutes to go in the Niagara College Invitational championship game held here Dec. 15 and Dec. 16, the locals reeled off a comeback. Down 87-70, the Knights sent the game into overtime tied at 88. They won 100-98, finally beating a team that's been a thorn in their side for the last two years.

To get to the championship Niagara beat St. Lawrence College, of Kingston, 82-71. Ernell Ellis, forward, battled the flu and still scored 24 points against his opponents and another 34 points in the final. Ellis says although these games were exhibition, "It was very important. Sometimes we lose our confidence, but we were much more confident for the final."

To boost the Knights' confidence, they showcased Edson Jones. Jones hadn't taken to the court until this tourney, but will see play as this year's season begins. Jones, point guard, netted 10 points against St. Lawrence and 14 in the final.

"We showed a lot of heart. It was great. It wasn't just one person; it was a team effort," says Jones.

Halden Hutchinson, captain, who moved over to shooting guard, was effective sinking eight points and tallying 31 points in the final. Hutch says winning this game was "impressive. Last year we lost to them in OT. We got a second shot and beat them when it counted."



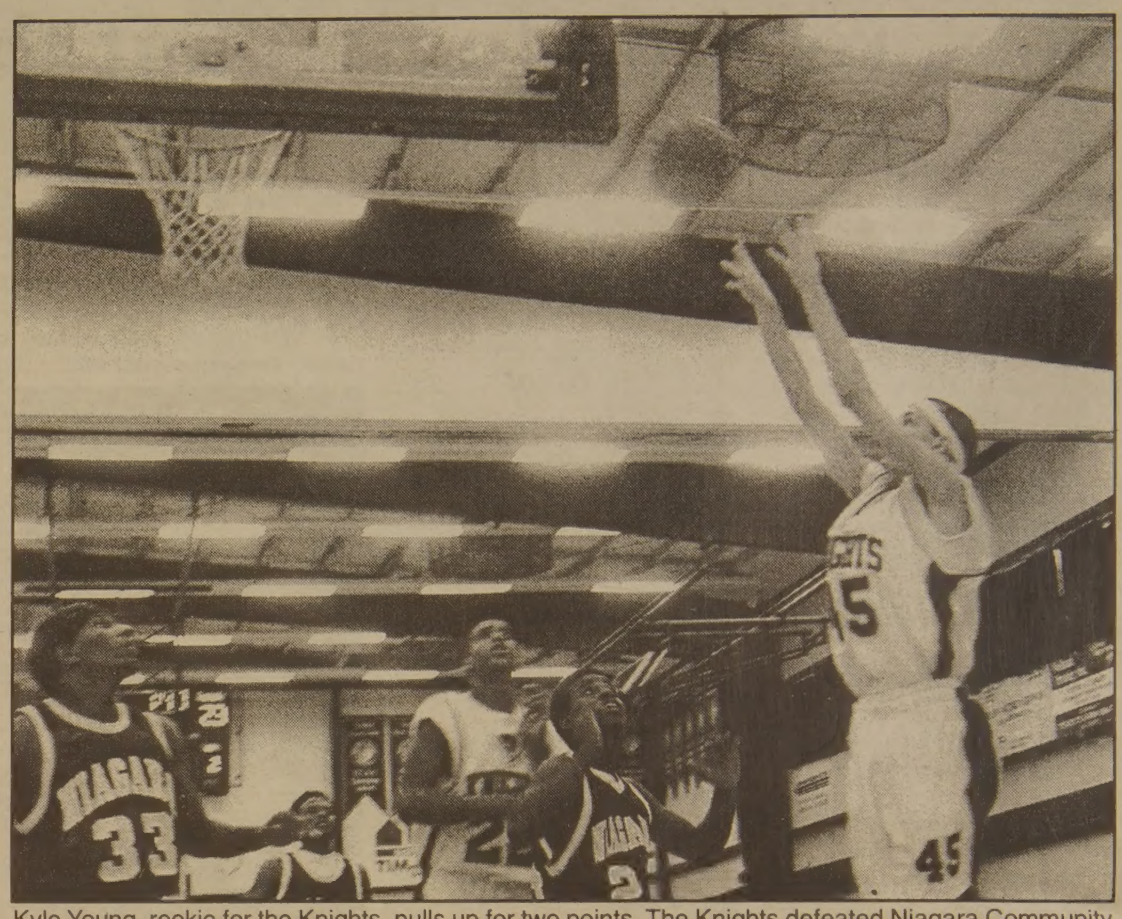
Aaron Paisley slams in a reverse.

Photo by Aaron Wilson

Curtis Francis, Aaron Paisley and Matt Roberts contributed in big and different ways. Francis, forward, sank some key baskets in the second half of the final and came up with a huge steal in the waning moments that helped Niagara tie the game.

Paisley, forward, scored seven points in the final, but came up with two reverse dunks that lifted the team's intensity. "It was a nice, friendly tournament, right before Christmas, (and a) nice way to finish up the year."

Roberts, centre, had a combined 10 points in the tourney, but it was his defensive blocking and rebounding that were most impressive. Roberts pulled down 11 boards in the first game and 15 boards in the final.



Kyle Young, rookie for the Knights, pulls up for two points. The Knights defeated Niagara Community College in the final of the Niagara College Invitational 100-98 in overtime.

Photo by Aaron Wilson

"We are all coming together, knowing our roles, and the team aspect," Roberts says.

Coach Ralph Nero says, "It was a very exciting game. (The) kids showed character coming back."

Niagara plays their first season game of the new year at home against Redeemer tonight. Tipoff is at 8 p.m. in the Gym.

Knights defeat George Brown, move up to 2-7

Niagara beats George Brown 57-44

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights women's basketball team has moved to a two win-seven loss record with a victory over Toronto's George Brown College here on Jan. 14.

The Knights defeated the Huskies 57-44.

Forwards Carrie Stratford and Jana Douglas each had 19 points in a well-executed game.

Stratford says it feels good to start to the new year with a win.

"This should take us into this season up. We came out strong, and played the way we had been taught."

"We played a definitely well rounded game," says assistant coach Dina Niejadlik.

Coach Georgie Groat says with each game the team is becoming "more comfortable, and confident, things are running more smoothly."

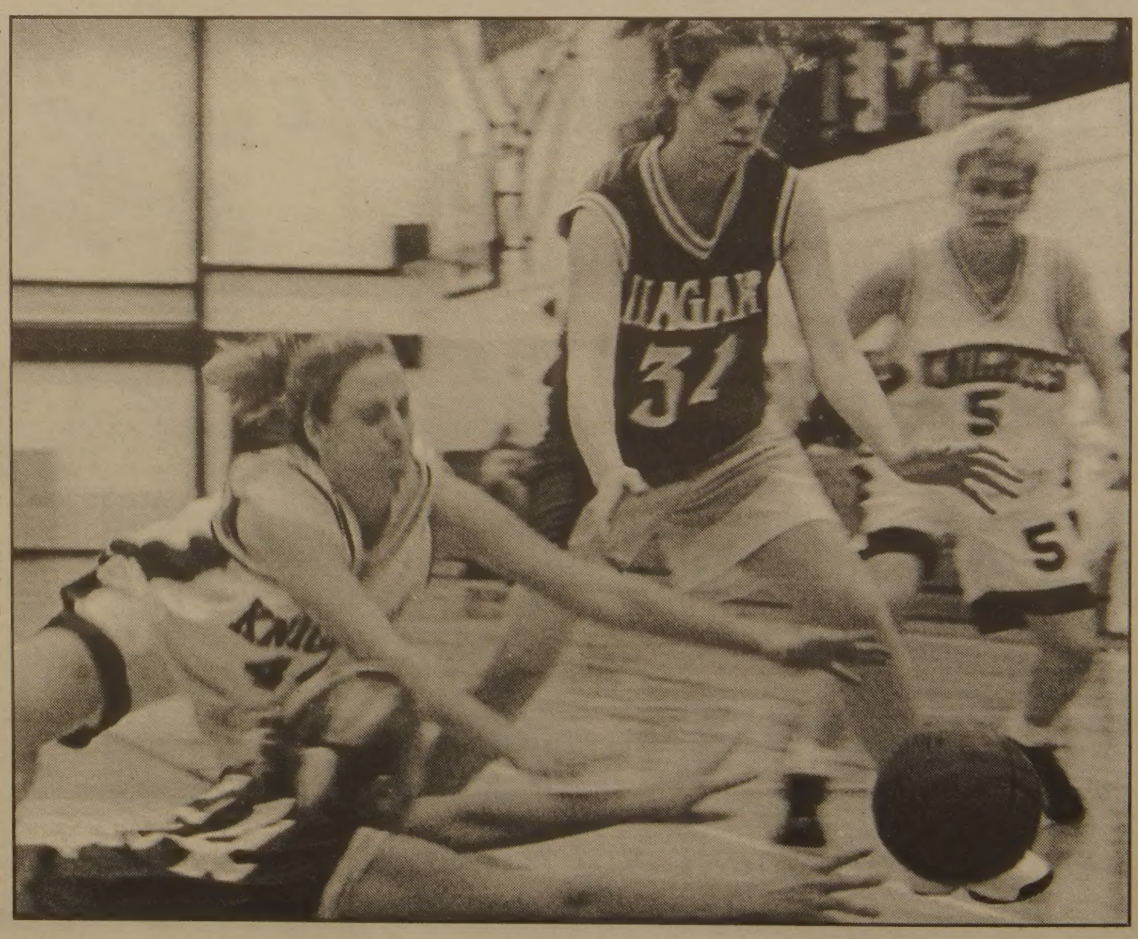
Niagara has won three of its last four games. Niagara defeated Niagara Community College, of Niagara Falls, N.Y., on Dec. 16, in an exhibition game at home 57-29. Niagara dominated this game playing two excellent halves.

Niagara then played in a tournament on Jan. 5 and Jan. 6, advancing to the final beating Belleville's Loyalist College 40-39.

Unfortunately, Niagara lost the championship game 60-49 playing against Royal Military College, of Kingston.

Niagara's guards Kelly Lewis and Tasha Warwick were tournament all-stars, both playing great games. Niagara played Wednesday night against Humber College in Etobicoke.

The team plays at home tonight against Ancaster's Redeemer College. Tipoff is in the Mackenzie building gym at 6 p.m.



Jana Douglas, forward, hustles for the loose ball. Niagara defeated Niagara Community College 57-29 in an exhibition game at Niagara College on Dec.16.

Photo by Aaron Wilson

SPORTS

Knights hit .500 for first time this season

Head coach Carolyn Welden watches her team win their third straight. Men's team climbs into 7th place in national rankings.

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

After starting the season with three straight losses, the Niagara Knights women's volleyball team has climbed the West Region standings by winning its next three matches.

The squad of five rookies and five veterans stole a five-game match versus North Bay's Canadore Panthers on Jan. 13 at the college's Mackenzie building. With eight regular season games left to play, the Knights are 3-3 and have moved past Hamilton's Mohawk College for fourth place in the west.

Head coach Carolyn Welden attributes the team's recent success to continual and consistent playing time together.

She says they're making the simple plays and cutting down on mental errors. "We're serving a lot more consistently."

Niagara and Canadore split the first four games with nearly identical scores of 19-25, 25-19, 18-25 and 25-19. Niagara avenged its previous loss to the Panthers by capturing the match with a 15-13 win in game five. "Every game you want to win, but especially this one because we've played them and already lost to them," says Welden.

This match was an important win because Niagara now stands six points behind the second place Redeemer Royals and four behind the third place North Bay Nipissing Lakers. With three games at hand, (meaning the Knights have played three fewer games than the latter), Niagara has increased its chances for a playoff position.

"We definitely wanted to win this one," says Welden.

Leading the way for the Knights was four-year veteran Diane VandenHoven, 20, and sophomore power-hitter Ginni Llord, 20. Although she was playing with a sore right shoulder, VandenHoven finished with 16 offensive points.

"Diane is battling her timing right now," says Welden, explaining VandenHoven's injury. "She's always leaving early for the ball."

When a player jumps early to spike a ball, he/she has a tendency to generate smashing power from the arm instead of the entire body. VandenHoven is averaging 3.8 offensive points per game.

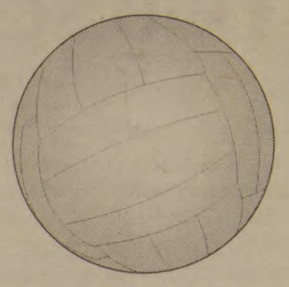
As for Llord, she ended the match with 11 kills, three serving aces and one stuff block, giving her a total of 15 offensive points.

Among the team's five rookies is 18-year-old Thais Aun, who hails from Brazil. Welden says the five-foot nine-inch middle had a "really good" game and blocked "fantastically" at the net. "She had six kills, but it was consistent. When she hit the ball, she was really doing something aggressive with it."

The Knights will be looking to gain ground on Redeemer and Nipissing when they visit the Mohawk Mountaineers in Hamilton tonight.

The men's team followed the women's victory with a three-game hammering of the Panthers. The scores were 25-21, 25-20 and 26-24. Blair Cudmore's club has prevailed over Canadore in all three matches they have played against each other.

In front of a rather small and quiet crowd, the Knights pounded the ball into the open court. Graeme Gaunt led the way with 14 offensive points (see page 22 for details on Gaunt's season performances), while Juston Ross and Josh Gunnell added 8 and 7 points respectively.



Even though half the cheers and vocal support came from our team's bench, the Knights managed to improve their season record to a dominating 8-0.

On the national level, Cudmore and his squad have moved up a notch, now resting comfortably in seventh place. Students and sports fans will have a chance to see both teams one week from now. On Friday, Jan. 26, Niagara will be hosting Nipissing University. The action starts at 6 p.m.

Raptors trade Willis but continue to struggle

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer
Column

So far, so bad.

The Toronto Raptors have certainly been a disappointment during the first half of this season.

At 20-19, the Raptors are perfecting what they started last season: the art of consistent inconsistencies. When the going gets tough, the Raps take jump shots. I'm not questioning their ability to hit the jumper, because open shots aren't the problem.

I'm questioning their determination to drive towards the basket in order to draw a foul. Too many possessions are wasted with quick shots. Too many games are lost because of a lack of focus and defensive pressure. Toronto has one of the worst shooting percentages in the league. That's something no team can rely on for winning games.

Although the Raptors have suffered injuries to Vince Carter, Muggsy Bogues and Antonio Davis, those injuries are no excuse for losing to teams like the L.A. Clippers or the Atlanta Hawks. Alvin Williams (8.9 points per game (ppg)) has posted great numbers coming off the bench. Toronto must find a way to work around these minor setbacks and play as a team.

During the off-season, the Raptors gained more than they lost. Following the departure of Tracy McGrady and Doug Christie, General Manager Glen Grunwald hired Lenny Wilkins, who has won more games (1,199) than any other coach in National Basketball Association history.

Newcomers Mark Jackson (9.3 assists per game), Corliss Williamson (9.6 ppg) and rookie Morris Peterson (16 ppg as a starter) are suitable replacements for McGrady. The ancient dinosaurs currently possess 102 years of experience.

Last Friday, the Raptors traded 16-year veteran Kevin Willis, Aleksander Radojevic and Garth Joseph to the Denver Nuggets. In return, Toronto received 6'11" Keon Clarke, swing man Tracy Murray and rookie centre Mamadou N'diaye. These additions improve the team's athleticism and depth at the forward position.

Unfortunately, this trade does not benefit Williamson's minutes at all. Grunwald traded for the "Big Nasty" and now the small forward spends 30-plus minutes sitting on the bench.

This season's starting lineup appears to be the best in franchise history. Davis and power forward Charles Oakley have a combined average of 23 ppg and 22.1 rebounds per game (rpg), so they display tremendous presence in the paint. Even with Carter averaging 28.6 ppg and Peterson playing like a 10-year veteran, the team continues to perform at a sub-.500 level.

The Raptors simply aren't playing consistent, high-energy basketball. Sometimes, their intensity resembles a bunch of washed-up old-timers. There is no ball movement, fast breaks or offensive rebounding. On other occasions, they show the passion and determination of a National College Athletic Association team. They pound the ball on the inside, draw fouls and get to the free-throw line.

The Jan. 9th 110-91 loss to the Houston Rockets was pathetic. The Raptors played so poorly their own fans began booing them towards the end of the first half and throughout the second. Willis and Peterson weren't getting enough touches and shots were being taken too early into the 24-second clock.

On Wednesday, the Raps bounced back with a 110-85 manhandling of the Detroit Pistons. The Dinos were making cuts, moving the ball and taking high-percentage shots. Following the victory, the Raptors achieved wins over the Boston Celtics and Charlotte Hornets.

History was made the last time Toronto faced Charlotte. Jamal Mashburn and the Hornets held Carter's Raptors to a franchise low 64 points.

Just when you thought they had improved on their inconsistent play, Toronto visited Houston this Tuesday. Once again, the Rockets easily defeated the Raptors with 114-99 triumph. The loss ended the Raps three-game winning streak.

After spending two weeks on the disabled list because of a groin injury, Davis returned to the lineup against the Pistons. He scored 11 points, grabbed 12 boards and proved just how valuable he is to the team. If every Raptor played as hard as Davis does, I wouldn't be writing this column.

When Bogues re-enters the lineup in a few weeks, Toronto will be out of excuses for losing.

This under-achieving team has playoff potential written all over the players' jerseys. If they begin to play hard, drive to the basket, work the ball in the paint and stop shooting early jumpers on a day-to-day basis, maybe fans at the Air Canada Centre will start cheering instead of booing.

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Two school bus drivers charged in accident

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

On Jan. 11, after an investigation, Niagara Regional Police charged two school bus drivers involved in an accident, in which a girl was struck and injured by a bus.

Susan Robichard-Lyachovics and Charles Dunn are charged with failure to report an accident. Robicard-Lyachovics is also charged with failure to activate school bus signals.

Police report the incident occurred on Dec. 22, 2000, the last day of school before elementary and high schools went on holidays, when Robichard-Lyachovics dropped a group of elementary school students off on River Trail in Stevensville.

A second bus, driven by Dunn, was travelling on River Trail and attempted to pass the parked bus because the crossing signals were not activated. As he attempted to pass, his bus struck six-year-old Leah Taylor.

Police state Dunn then picked the girl up and carried her home to her mother at 3683 River Trail. Neither driver reported the accident to police.

Taylor was taken to hospital, where she was treated for a broken leg as well as some minor cuts and bruises. The incident came to police attention when the girl's uncle, an off-duty police office, arrived at the hospital and discovered a report hadn't been made.

In a telephone interview, the injured girl's mother, Helen Taylor, said that, "Leah has a cast from her toes to her groin." She said Leah is "having trouble getting around and needs to use a wheelchair."

"The cast is so long that if (Leah) tries to use crutches she can't lift her leg high enough for it to clear the floor," said Taylor. She said Leah would be in a cast until at least Jan. 29 when she has her next set of X-rays. After that, she might have to wear a shorter cast. Taylor said that because of the accident her daughter is missing all the fun winter activities that other children enjoy. "She can't go outside and have snowball fights with all her sisters and friends."

Asked if she and her husband planned to take legal action, Taylor said she had no comment at this time.

January Start students say they enjoy Orientation

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

As the Niagara College January Start students lined up outside Welland campus's After Hours pub for the Jan. 9 Orientation, some of the college's most prestigious people waited inside to give them a special Niagara College welcome.

The students were made welcome with pizza, pop, cookies and an arrangement of items to be won: from an economy-size box of Kraft dinner to a hairdryer and gift certificates from the college bookstore.

Social Service Worker program student Heather Journeay says she wants to win the hairdryer and especially likes the orientation because "there are no classes being held." Laurie Vida, of the same program, says she likes the free food.

Randy Conlon, manager student recruitment, an organizer of the event, says the January Start Orientation is a smaller version of the September Orientation but the attendance for the January orientation was excellent.

"The place is packed and the turnout is really good," he says. "It's nice to see high contingents of international students in a very strong economy."

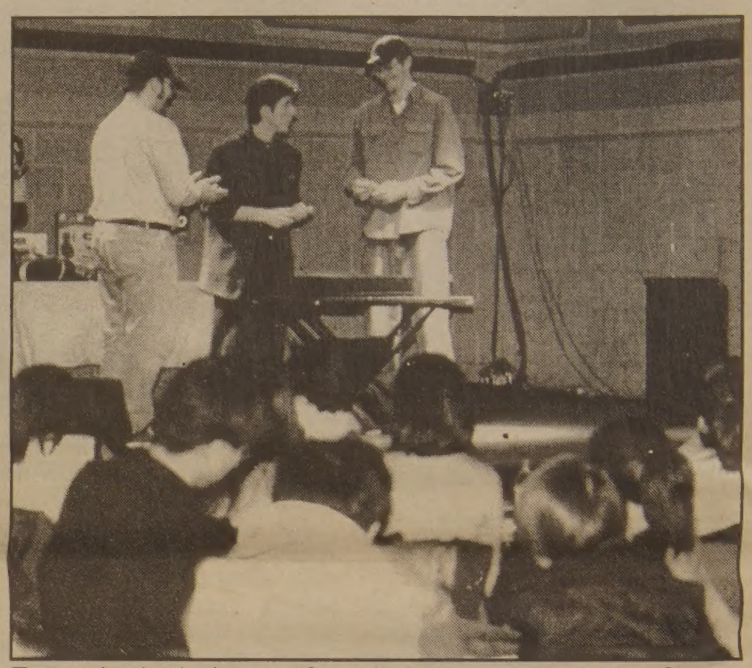
Some of the January Start students had come from such far away places as China and Jamaica.

Student Administrative Council (SAC) President Ryan McLaughlin welcomed the students. He later noted, "Having Orientation at the pub makes every one of the students feel comfortable walking through those doors. Half the problem is getting students to feel comfortable coming to us (the SAC) when they need stuff."

Steven Alamay, a comedian from Halifax, had the students roaring with laughter with his magic, card tricks and jokes.

Brad Harrieha and Justin Ross, both of the Recreation and Leisure Services program, say the Orientation is "pretty good" and encourage people to see the men's volleyball games. They had just joined the team. Harrietha, a winner of a gift certificate from the campus bookstore, and Ross, a volunteer in Alamay's act, exhibited the enthusiasm of the January Start students.

Dan Patterson, the college's president, also gave a warm welcome to the students and encouraged them to enjoy their time here.



Two enthusiastic January Start students assist comedian Steven Alamay during his hilarious show during Orientation.

Photo by Kandis Thorsby

We Offer Help

Call Us... Jill Friend 685-7675 Abby's Secretarial Company

When You Need
Typing for Essays, Reports, Assignments & Correspondence
685-7675

Gaunt named Male Athlete of the Week

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

Niagara College's 1999-2000 Male Athlete of the Year, Graeme Gaunt, has recently been named Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's Male Athlete of the Week.

During the course of the season, Gaunt, 20, has led the way for the Knights, providing numerous kills and timely stuff blocks. Gaunt, who is enrolled in the Computer Engineering Technology program, is in his second year with the team.

Within the West Region's individual statistics, Gaunt stands in second place with an average of 4.3 points per game (ppg). Player captain Josh Gunnell trails closely behind his teammate, averaging 3.8 ppg, good enough for fifth place.

Last Saturday's victory over North Bay's Canadore Panthers displayed Gaunt doing what he does best. The Chatham, Ont., native contributed to the Knights' offence with 11 kills and three stuff blocks. Coach Blair Cudmore and his team will travel to Hamilton tonight for an evening match versus the Mohawk Mountaineers.

Defence will determine Super Bowl victory

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer
Column

Hey, Vince Lombardi, how's this for a Super Bowl.

You know that old saying about how defence wins championships? I think I'm going to go out on a limb and say defence will win this Super Bowl.

I know it's hard to believe but, come on, the New York Giants versus the Baltimore Ravens?

How else could quarterbacks Kerry Collins and Trent Dilfer make it to the Super Bowl?

Now, I know Collins threw for 340 yards and five touchdown passes, but let's not kid ourselves. That was against the Minnesota Viking defence, which was pretty weak in the first place and was just a little banged up on Sunday.

I think Chris Berman, analyst for ESPN, was right when he said jokingly, "Was that prevent defence?"

I think more people would have guessed Buffalo's quarterback Rob Johnson would make the Super Bowl sooner than Collins and Dilfer.

I guess Kerry — who will have to prove me wrong, and I hope he does — is going against a defence that held one of the best offences in the league to three points.

Trent, I guess you will have to prove me wrong. You just have to throw against a team that shut out the best passing attack in the game, as well as Robert Smith.

Well, Jamal Lewis is a different running back, but Jamal will have fun trying to bust through Armstead, Hamilton and Strahan.

All right, football fans, are you ready for the toughest game you have seen since the ice bowl, without the ice, and insane winter climate?

I think there will be blood spilled before you see a touchdown, if you see a touchdown at all.

Are you ready for two running plays and then maybe a pass?

I'll tell you there's going to be more running than Dennis Miller's yap on ABC's Monday Night Football.

I'm not going to pick a winning team. Instead, I will make a final score prediction of 6-3, although I bet the way this season has gone, the final score will be 47-42 — all offensive touchdowns.

Former Marching Band Members

Do you miss the fun and comraderie of being actively involved in a marching band?

Bellerophon
DRUM & BUGLE BAND
WELLAND, ONTARIO

is actively recruiting new members for the upcoming parade season.

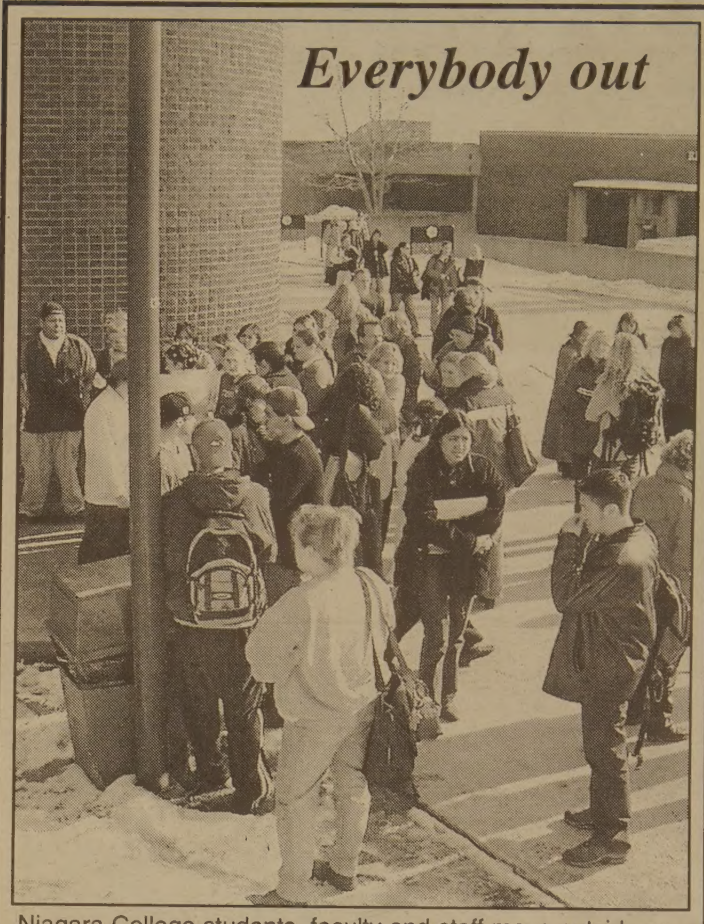
Uniforms and Instruments provided

For information call:

Don 735-7137 • Bob 732-4235

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Everybody out



Niagara College students, faculty and staff move outside as a scheduled fire drill was held yesterday at the college's Welland campus. Fortunately, the weather co-operated for those having to stand outside.

Photo by Scott Thomson

Books or Insurance...
Should I really have to choose?

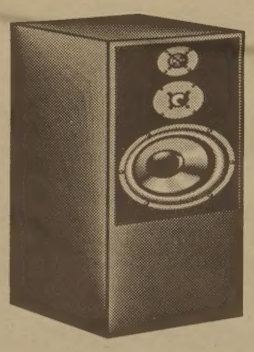
Go on-line and see how much you can save on your auto insurance.

www.trgins.com/helpme

or call **374-7000**

HelpMe Youth Auto Insurance

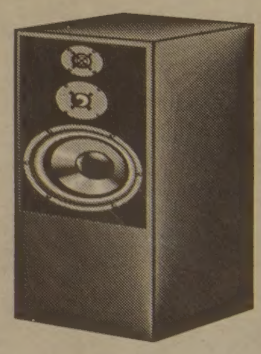
Canada's New & Evolutionary Night Spot



maximum

N-ERGY

—club, bar and dance—



Wednesday
"RETRO"
$2. Specials
'til Midnight

Thursday
College Party Night!
$2 Specials
'til Midnight

Friday & Saturday
join us for the . . .
. . . ULTIMATE DANCE PARTY

Dance the night away to some of today's hottest dance videos on the N-ERGY Video Wall

COME FEEL THE ENERGY
243 Garrison Rd. • Fort Erie • Canada
(Open 8 p.m. - 2 a.m.)

It's your
world
5
3
7
1
RPM
5
3
7
1
RPM
Team Player's
RACING IN THE C.A.R.T. SERIES